

ADJECTIVE CLAUSES

1. INTRODUCTION

A sentence with an **adjective clause** can be seen as a combination of two sentences.

*John is a man. + He works hard. = John is a man **who works hard**.*
*Mary is interesting. + I like her a lot. = Mary, **whom I like a lot**, is interesting.*

2. IDENTIFYING AND NON-IDENTIFYING CLAUSES

An adjective clause that distinguishes one person or thing from another is called **identifying** or essential. The clause is not enclosed in

*The man **who delivers the mail** is friendly.*

An adjective clause that adds extra information but does not distinguish one person from another is called **non-identifying** or nonessen

*Mr. Jones, **who delivers the mail**, is friendly.*

3. OMITTING RELATIVE PRONOUNS

You can sometimes omit the relative pronoun (whom, which, that) if it is an object. This is common in conversation and informal writing.

*Mr. Pitkin is the man. + I mentioned him. = Mr. Pitkin is the man **I mentioned**.*

You can omit relative pronouns only in identifying clauses. You cannot omit the relative pronoun in a non-identifying clause.

*The man **you met on Friday** is Tarik.*
*That's Tarik, **whom you met on Friday**.*

4. OTHER AWESOME RULES!

Don't use **that** as a relative pronoun in a non-identifying clause.

The Gomez test, **which I took a long time ago**, has proved to be accurate.

NOT: The Gomez test, ~~that I took a long time ago~~, has proved to be accurate.

In formal writing and speech, use a noun at the beginning of a **that** or **which** clause.

*Helen is hardworking, **a characteristic that /which impresses me**.*

WHOSE

Use **whose** to introduce an adjective clause that indicates **possession**. Use **whose** to replace *his/ her/ its/their + noun*. An adjective cl

*Ken is the man. + We met his wife. = Ken is the man **whose wife we met**.*

(You cannot omit **whose**)

WHERE

You can use **where** to introduce an adjective clause that modifies a noun of **place**.

Where replaces the word **there**.

Be careful! Use an adjective clause with **where** only if you can restate the location with the word **there**.

*This is the restaurant. + We ate there. = This is the restaurant **where we ate**.*
*Vancouver is the city **where I was born**.*

NOT: *Rio de Janeiro is a city ~~where has beautiful scenery~~.*

