

Non-Defining Relative Clauses as Sentence Modifiers

The Evolution and Future of Sharing Information

Over the past few decades, technology has radically transformed how humanity creates, stores, and distributes knowledge. Historically, the invention of the printing press allowed books to be mass-produced, **which enabled ordinary people to access education for the first time**. Later, the arrival of the internet revolutionized global communication by allowing news to travel instantaneously, **which has contributed to an interconnected global society**. Today, social media platforms allow billions of users to broadcast ideas instantly around the world, **which means that traditional news outlets no longer hold a monopoly on information**. However, this rapid dissemination often spreads unverified claims, **which depresses media experts and leads to widespread misinformation**.

Looking ahead, technology will reshape how we share information in even more profound ways. Advanced artificial intelligence models will soon summarize vast amounts of complex data instantly, **which suggests that future generations will spend less time searching for facts**. Furthermore, neural interfaces and augmented reality devices may soon stream data directly into our field of vision, **which will result in a completely immersive learning experience**. While these advancements offer extraordinary efficiency, they also raise serious ethical concerns regarding privacy and control, **which is why experts urge governments to regulate emerging tech carefully**. Ultimately, technology continues to expand human knowledge, **which encourages researchers to keep pushing the boundaries of innovation**.

NON-DEFINING RELATIVE CLAUSES AS SENTENCE MODIFIERS

- **Making a comment about an entire sentence using 'which'**

You can use non-defining relative clauses with 'which' to comment on an entire situation described in the main clause. Always separate with a comma.

e.g., Social media lets anyone share news, which means that traditional media is changing rapidly.

e.g., The internet allowed instant messaging, which is why physical letters became far less common.

- **Common verbs in sentence modifiers**

Non-defining relative clauses as sentence modifiers can contain almost any verb. Common ones include: result in, encourage, suggest (that), contribute to, surprise, and depress.

e.g., Advanced tech connects global networks, which has resulted in instant global communication.

e.g., Digital publishing reduces paper use, which has contributed to environmental preservation.

- **Emotion verbs require an object**

Note that verbs describing emotion (e.g., surprise, depress, encourage) **MUST** be followed by an object (me, us, scientists, experts).

e.g., Misinformation spreads quickly online, which depresses media analysts.

e.g., AI speeds up data analysis, which encourages scientists to run more tests.

Exercise 1: Combine the two sentences into one using comma + which to make a comment on the whole situation.

1. The internet allows instant transmission of news. This means people stay updated in real time.

Answer: _____

2. Smart devices collect huge amounts of personal data. This is why privacy regulations are necessary.

Answer: _____

3. AI tools can translate languages in real time. This helps people from different cultures communicate easily.

Answer: _____

Exercise 2: Complete each sentence by adding a sentence modifier starting with which and using the verb in brackets.

1. Cloud storage allows us to access files from anywhere, which _____ (contribute to) higher workforce flexibility.

Answer: _____

2. Millions of fake articles are generated automatically, which _____ (result in) a decline in public trust.

Answer: _____

3. People prefer watching video summaries rather than reading long reports, which _____ (suggest that) attention spans are shrinking.

Answer: _____

Exercise 3: Combine the sentences using a non-defining relative clause. Remember to include an object after verbs of emotion!

1. Virtual reality classrooms are becoming highly effective. (This encourages teachers to adopt new methods.)

Answer: _____

2. Many historical documents are being lost due to digital corruption. (This depresses archivists.)

Answer: _____

3. Quantum computing solved a complex algorithm in seconds. (This surprised computer scientists.)

Answer: _____

Exercise 4: Select the correct option to complete the non-defining relative clause.

1. Algorithms now personalize every user's newsfeed, _____ makes it hard to see opposing viewpoints.
a) what b) which c) that

2. Cyberattacks have increased significantly, _____ businesses to invest more in security.
a) which encourages b) which encourage c) which is why encourages

3. Holographic communication will soon replace regular video calls, _____ a more interactive experience.
a) which will result in b) that results in c) which contributing to