Name ..... Class ..... Date .....

# 13.5 Adjective Clauses

**Key Information**

An **adjective clause** is a subordinate clause that modifies a noun or a pronoun and that normally follows the word it modifies. Adjective clauses are introduced by relative pronouns (*who, whom, whose, that,* and *which*) or by the subordinating conjunctions *where* and *when.*

An adjective clause that is needed to make the meaning of the sentence clear is called an **essential clause,** or a **restrictive clause.** An adjective clause that is *not* needed to make the meaning of the sentence clear is a **nonessential,** or **nonrestrictive, clause.**

Commas are always used to set off a nonessential clause. Often, the relative pronoun *that* is used to introduce an essential clause and *which* to introduce a nonessential clause.

The tree **that Huong planted in the backyard** is an elm. (essential clause)
That tree, **which is ten years old,** has Dutch elm disease. (nonessential clause)
The letter **I am expecting** is from the state university. (essential clause with *that* omitted)
This letter, **which has a Mexican stamp,** is from Manolo. (nonessential clause)

## Identifying Essential and Nonessential Adjective Clauses

Underline each adjective clause in the sentences below. In the space provided, write *EC* for an essential clause and *NC* for a nonessential clause.

1. One area that offers many opportunities for high school graduates is sales. EC NC
2. Retail sales has jobs that offer opportunities for training and careers. EC NC
3. Department stores and other retail stores, which employ about 2.5 million sales-clerks, have tens of thousands of sales openings every year. EC NC
4. These employers are looking for high school graduates who can learn to accept responsibility and operate cash registers, which are often similar to computers. who: EC NC which: EC NC
5. Another quality that is a great plus is a lively personality. EC NC
6. An able salesclerk may become a manager, whose responsibility it is to supervise an entire department. EC NC
7. The top selling jobs are those that pay a commission, which rewards the clerk with a percentage of each sale. that: EC NC which: EC NC
8. An ambitious clerk whose pay includes a commission can make a great deal of money. EC NC
9. Clerks try to increase their sales volume because a portion, which varies in size, is returned to them as commission. EC NC
10. Experienced clerks may move to departments where more knowledge is required to be an effective salesperson. EC NC



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