

Complex Sentences with Nonrestrictive Adjectival Clauses

Nonrestrictive adjectival clauses add extra information that is not essential to the meaning of the sentence. In this case, set off the adjectival clause with commas to show that this is additional information. You can use *who* and *where* in nonrestrictive clauses. However, don't use *that* in nonrestrictive clauses; instead, use *which*.

He went to Harvard, **where** he spent most of his time in the computer center.
An easy way to prevent malaria is by using bed nets, **which** cost very little.

Grammar Skill

Be sure to set off nonrestrictive clauses with commas.

Practice A



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Work with a partner. Complete the nonrestrictive clauses in the sentences below with *who*, *where*, or *which*.

1. They made a contribution of \$25, which was very generous.
2. We walked to a nearby restaurant, _____ we had lunch.
3. The class read about Frida Kahlo, _____ was a painter.
4. He went to high school, _____ he excelled in math.
5. Carlos was in math, _____ was his last class of the day.
6. I play soccer with Judy, _____ is a friend of mine.

Practice B

Complete the following sentences with a nonrestrictive adjectival clause. Be sure the adjectival clauses are set off by commas.

1. Kahlo married Diego Rivera, who was also a painter.
2. The space shuttle entered Earth's orbit _____.
3. In 1974, Bangladesh experienced a terrible famine _____.
4. The Gates Foundation fights malaria _____.
5. As a child, Jemison _____ watched televised spaceflights.

Grammar Check

✓ Which relative pronouns can you use in **nonrestrictive clauses**?

Copy the sentence starters below into your notebook. Complete them using nonrestrictive adjectival clauses and your own ideas. Then use the sentences to tell a partner about yourself.

1. My favorite singer is . . . , who
2. I like to go shopping at . . . , where
3. I saw a great movie called . . . , which
4. Sometimes I like to go to . . . , where
5. I don't like to eat . . . , which

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REMEMBER A **nonrestrictive adjectival clause** is not essential to the main idea of a sentence. Use commas with nonrestrictive clauses. You can use *who* to refer to people and *where* to refer to places in nonrestrictive clauses, but don't use *that* to refer to things. Instead, use *which* to refer to things in a nonrestrictive clause.

Decide if the adverbial clause in each sentence is restrictive or nonrestrictive. Then add commas around the nonrestrictive adjectival clauses.

Example: nonrestrictive Hawaii, which consists of eight main islands, is a popular vacation spot.

1. _____ I ran into Ms. Loar who works at the bank.
2. _____ The glass that was in the cabinet is broken.
3. _____ Glass which is made chiefly from sand is a very useful material.
4. _____ Yuri is the banker who lends money to poor people.
5. _____ The pizza that we had for lunch was very good.
6. _____ Mr. Greene who teaches biology is an excellent instructor.
7. _____ I live in a town where there isn't much to do.
8. _____ The Shenandoah National Park where you can mountain bike is not far from my house.
9. _____ The students who finished the test could leave early, but the others had to stay.
10. _____ The article was about a man who died of a rare disease.