

Adjective Clauses

1. **Identifying adjective clauses**, sometimes called restrictive relative clauses, are groups of words (phrases) that act as adjectives to describe or identify a noun. These phrases come directly after the nouns they describe and begin with relative pronouns that refer to the noun. Sentences with adjective clauses can be seen as a combination of two shorter sentences about the same noun.

He had a horse. + The horse could answer mathematical questions.

= He had a horse **that could answer mathematical questions**.

Clever Hans lived in a small town. + The small town was in Germany.

= **The small town where Clever Hans lived** was in Germany.

2. Identifying adjective clauses begin with a **relative pronoun**. The noun that the clause describes determines the choice of pronoun.

who = person or people (and sometimes animals)

which = thing or things

that = thing, things, person, or people (less formal than *which* or *who*)

when = a time or times

where or **in which** = a place or places

whose = possession

3. Remember that the relative pronoun replaces the noun it describes; the noun is not repeated.

I saw **the horse**. + The scientist was testing **the horse**.

= I saw **the horse that** the scientist was testing.

INCORRECT: I saw **the horse that** the scientist was testing **the horse**.

2. Read the sentences and circle **Correct** or **Incorrect** for the underlined relative pronouns. If the pronoun is correct, add an alternative, or other, pronoun that could also be used. If the pronoun is incorrect, write one or two pronouns that could be used.

1. The scientist which observed Clever Hans wrote a book.

Correct Alternative: _____

Incorrect Correction(s): The scientist who / that observed Clever Hans wrote a book.

2. The museum where Peter Bøckman works is in Oslo, Norway.

Correct Alternative: _____

Incorrect Correction(s): _____

3. Seizure alert dogs are dogs whose can predict a seizure before it starts.

Correct Alternative: _____

Incorrect Correction(s): _____

4. Hans was the world-famous horse which owner, Wilhelm von Osten, was a retired school teacher.

Correct Alternative: _____

Incorrect Correction(s): _____

5. On the day when Oskar Pfungst discovered Clever Hans's secret, Wilhelm von Osten was visiting his sister.

Correct Alternative: _____

Incorrect Correction(s): _____

6. Zoologists are now developing tests that assess animal intelligence more accurately.

Correct Alternative: _____

Incorrect Correction(s): _____

7. Many people when study animals are convinced that they are able to understand some human language.

Correct Alternative: _____

Incorrect Correction(s): _____

8. Oskar Pfungst put the questioners in a place which they could not be seen by Clever Hans.

Correct Alternative: _____

Incorrect Correction(s): _____

3 Combine each pair of sentences into one sentence using an identifying adjective clause.

1. a. Clever Hans was trained by a retired school teacher.

b. The school teacher had taught science for many years.

Clever Hans was trained by a retired school teacher who had taught science for many years.

2. a. The afternoon was cold and rainy.

b. That afternoon Clever Hans was ready to perform in front of an audience.

The afternoon when Clever Hans was ready to perform in front of an audience was cold and rainy.

3. a. Binti the gorilla is best known for an amazing incident.

b. The incident occurred on August 16, 1996.

4. a. I spoke with a man.

b. The man had trained dolphins and killer whales.

5. a. Psychologists study many animals.

b. Animals live in zoos.
