

GRAMMAR

Adjective Clauses

Adjective clauses are dependent clauses that give information about nouns. They allow you to combine two sentences into one by using relative pronouns (*who, whom, whose, where, when, which, that, and why*) as connectors.

WHO (used for people as subjects)

My friend missed the lecture. + She borrowed Sam's notes to review.
→ *My friend **who** missed the lecture borrowed Sam's notes to review.*

WHOM (used for people as objects)

The candidate won by a landslide. + Many people admire him.
→ *The candidate **whom** many people admire won by a landslide.*

WHOSE (used to indicate possession)

I admire Professor Brooks. + His books were stolen.
→ *I admire Professor Brooks, **whose** books were stolen.*

THAT (use for people, place, and things -- introduces information necessary to explain a noun)

I met a man on the bus today. + He works at the World Bank.
→ *The man **that** I met on the bus today works at the World Bank.*

WHICH (used for places, things -- introduces extra information about an already specific noun)

My new car needs very little gas. + It was a gift from my son.
→ *My new car, **which** was a gift from my son, needs very little gas.*

NOTE: When an adjective clause provides extra information, it is set off by commas.

WHEN and **WHERE** (used to replace *in which, on which, etc. not which*)

July 25 was sad for me. + I left home on that day.
→ *July 25, **when** I left home, was sad for me.*

I have always wanted to visit the big house. + Julio lives in that house.
→ *I have always wanted to visit the big house **where** Julio lives.*

WHY (usually introduces a noun clause)

My cousin ran away. + I don't know why.
→ *I don't know **why** my cousin ran away.*

Combine the following sentences into one using an adjective clause.

1. Students do well on tests if they are prepared beforehand. Some students are anxious.

2. A research paper on environmental problems received an award. I wrote the paper.

3. My driveway is in front of my house. I park four cars there.

4. The Industrial Revolution changed the way people make things. It began in England.

5. Recently, a large airplane had a serious accident. It was carrying too many passengers.

6. British Petroleum received criticism because of the oil spill in the Gulf. It is known as BP.

7. The dress was long, black, and beautiful. Mary wore it.

8. On my vacation, I met a boy. My father disliked him.

9. Jacob is a student in my biology class. His father is the ambassador from Kenya. The class meets twice a week.

Complete the following sentences with an adjective clause.

1. I'll never forget the time when _____
2. I gave up my seat on the bus to a woman whose _____
3. The person whom _____ suddenly fainted.
4. Everyone criticized my opinion, which _____
5. Often, people who _____ end up being successful.
6. Many people find Maryland, where _____, exciting.