

Intermediate English Grammar

Chapter 7 **Adjective Clauses**

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CLAUSE

NOUN CLAUSE

ADJECTIVE
CLAUSE

ADVERB
CLAUSE

TERMS

CLAUSE

A clause is a group of words containing a subject and a verb.

INDEPENDENT CLAUSE

An independent clause is a complete sentence. It contains the main subject and verb of a sentence.

DEPENDENT CLAUSE

A dependent clause is not a complete sentence. It must be connected to an independent clause.

ADJECTIVE CLAUSE

An adjective clause is dependent clause that modifies a noun. It describes, identifies, or gives further information about a noun.

USING SUBJECT PRONOUNS: WHO, WHICH, THAT

I thanked the woman.

She helped me.



(a) I thanked the woman **who** helped me.

(b) I thanked the woman **that** helped me.

The book is mine.

It is on the table.



(c) The book **which** is on the table is mine.

(d) The book **that** is on the table is mine.

In (a): *I thanked the woman* = an independent clause

who helped me = an adjective clause

The adjective clause modifies the noun *woman*.

In (a): **who** is the subject of the adjective clause.

In (b): **that** is the subject of the adjective clause.

Note: (a) and (b) have the same meaning.

who = used for people

which = used for things

that = used for both people and things

USING OBJECT PRONOUNS: WHO(M), WHICH, THAT

1. PRONOUN USED AS THE OBJECT OF A VERB

The man was Mr. Jones.

I saw him.

The man **who(m)** *I saw* was Mr. Jones.

The man **that** *I saw* was Mr. Jones.

The movie wasn't very good.

We saw it last night.

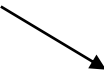
The movie **which** *we saw last night* wasn't very good.

The movie **that** *we saw last night* wasn't very good.

USING OBJECT PRONOUNS: WHO(M), WHICH, THAT

2. PRONOUN USED AS THE OBJECT OF A PREPOSITION

She is the woman.

I told you about her. 

She is the woman ***about whom*** I told you.

She is the woman ***who(m)*** I told you about.

She is the woman ***that*** I told you about.

Exercise 1

Combine the two sentences. Use the second sentence as an adjective clause.

1. I saw the man. He closed the door.
2. The new student is from China. She sits next to me.
3. We are studying sentences. They contain adjective clauses.
4. The book is mine. It is on the table.
5. The taxi driver was friendly. He took me to the airport.

Exercise 1 [answer]

Combine the two sentences. Use the second sentence as an adjective clause.

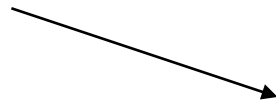
1. I saw the man **who** closed the door.
2. The new student is from China **who** sits next to me.
3. We are studying sentences **that** contain adjective clauses.
4. The book is mine **that** is on the table.
5. The taxi driver was friendly **who** took me to the airport.

USING WHOSE

Whose is used to show possession. It carries the same meaning as other possessive pronouns used as adjectives: *his*, *her*, *its*, and *their*. Like *his*, *her*, *its*, and *their*, **whose** is connected to a noun.

I know the man.

His bicycle was stolen.



I know the man **whose bicycle** was stolen.

Exercise 2

Combine the two sentences. Use the second sentence as an adjective clause.

1. I know a man. His last name is Fernando.
2. I apologized to the woman. I spilled her coffee.
3. The man called the police. His wallet was stolen.
4. The professor is excellent. I am taking her course.

Exercise 2 [answer]

Combine the two sentences. Use the second sentence as an adjective clause.

1. I know a man **whose** last name is Fernando.
2. I apologized to the woman **whose** her coffee I spilled .
3. The man called the police **whose** wallet was stolen.
4. The professor **whose** her course I am taking is excellent.

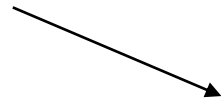
USING WHERE

Where is used in an adjective clause to modify a place (city, country, room, house, etc.)

If where is used, a preposition is not included in the adjective clause. If where is not used, the preposition must be included.

The building is very old.

He lives there (in that building).



The building **where** he lives is very old.

Exercise 3

Combine the two sentences. Use the second sentence as an adjective clause.

1. The city was beautiful. We spent our vacation there.
2. That is the restaurant. I will meet you there.
3. The town is small. I grew up there.
4. That is the drawer. I keep my jewelry there.

Exercise 3 [answer]

Combine the two sentences. Use the second sentence as an adjective clause.

1. The city **where we spent our vacation** was beautiful.
2. That is the restaurant **where I will meet you**.
3. The town **where I grew up** is small.
4. That is the drawer **where I keep my jewelry**.

USING WHEN

When is used in an adjective clause to modify a noun of time (*year, day, time, century, etc.*)

I'll never forget the day.

I met you then (on that day).

I'll never forget the day **when** I met you.



Exercise 4

Combine the two sentences. Use the second sentence as an adjective clause.

1. July Is the month. The weather is usually the hottest then.
2. There was a time. Movies cost a dime then.
3. Monday is the day. We will come then.
4. 1960 is the year. The revolution took place then.

Exercise 4 [answer]

Combine the two sentences. Use the second sentence as an adjective clause.

1. July Is the month **when** the weather is usually the hottest.
2. There was a time **when** movies cost a dime.
3. Monday is the day **when** we will come.
4. 1960 is the year **when** the revolution took place.

USING ADJECTIVE CLAUSES TO MODIFY PRONOUNS

Adjective clauses can modify indefinite pronouns (e.g., *someone, everybody*). Object pronouns (e.g., *whom, which*) are usually omitted in the adjective clause.

(a) There is ***someone*** (*whom*) *I want you to meet*.

(b) ***Everything*** *he said* was pure nonsense.

(c) ***Anybody*** *who wants to come* is welcome.

USING ADJECTIVE CLAUSES TO MODIFY PRONOUNS

Adjective clauses can modify the one(s) and those.

(a) Paula was ***the only one*** I knew at the party.

(b) Scholarships are available for ***those*** who need financial assistance.

USING ADJECTIVE CLAUSES TO MODIFY PRONOUNS

Adjective clauses rarely modify personal pronouns. (a) is very formal and uncommon. (b) is a well-known saying in which “he” is used as an indefinite pronoun (meaning “anyone,” “any person”).

(a) It is *I who am responsible*.

(b) *He who laughs last* laughs best.

Thank you!

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