

Adjective Clauses

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Adjective Clause: An incomplete sentence (or dependent clause) that describes, identifies, or gives more information about a noun, just like an adjective does. However, an adjective clause is more than one word, and there are some pronouns that signal an adjective clause. These include **who**, **that**, **which**, **whom**, **whose**, **where**, and **when**.

*I called the man (**who** was selling his car.)*

*Maria took the class (**which** was scheduled for 7 AM.)*

*David watched the dog (**that** was chasing his cat.)*

*The man (**whom** I called) was selling his car.*

*The woman (**whose** son I teach) is the mayor.*

*The place (**where** I go on vacation) is beautiful.*

*June 21 is the day (**when** I'll graduate from college.)*

****Notice all of the adjective clauses above are next to the nouns which they describe or modify. This is a rule to help you put the clauses in the right place.*

Subject Pronouns in adjective clauses: When we talk about subject pronouns in adjective clauses, it just means that the pronoun we're using is the subject of that clause. These subject pronouns are who (for people), which (for things), and that (for people and things). Since the pronoun is the subject of the clause, it must be followed by a verb. Look at the following examples:

*The dress **which is** on my bed was a present from my sister.*

*The boy **who answered** the question is a good student.*

*The woman **that is speaking** French is from Quebec.*

EXERCISE 1: Fill in the blanks with a subject pronoun adjective clause. Notice that the adjective clauses will all be next to the nouns they modify.

1. The man _____ is my German teacher.
2. The class _____ is in the morning.
3. The child _____ lives next to me.
4. I should've called the man _____.
5. I bought the book _____.
6. The dog _____ was given to Joe.
7. The student _____ is very happy.
8. The electrician _____ charged Luisa \$100.
9. The woman _____ is my doctor.
10. Chemistry problems contain symbols _____.
11. I wanted to meet the woman _____.
12. The girl _____ speaks three languages.

13. Lawyers _____ make a lot of money.
14. I wish I had seen the man _____.
15. You should've seen the accident _____.
16. The bus driver _____ was reckless.
17. The young tourist _____ climbed Cotopaxi.

Object Pronouns in adjective clauses: When we talk about object pronouns in adjective clauses, it just means that the pronoun is the object of that clause. Object pronouns include **whom** (for people), **which** (for things), and **that** (for people and things). [*Who is very informal and should not be used as an object pronoun in writing.*] Because these are objects of the adjective clause, they will be next to the subject and never be next to the verb. An object pronoun may also be omitted. So, when you have a sentence that needs an object pronoun adjective clause, you may choose between:

whom, that, and (nothing)
when talking about people

which, that, and (nothing)
when talking about things.

The man (**whom I saw**) was your uncle.
The man (**that I saw**) was your uncle.
The man (**I saw**) was your uncle.

The book (**which I read**) was written by Ann Rice.
The book (**that I read**) was written by Ann Rice.
The book (**I read**) was written by Ann Rice.

EXERCISE 2: Fill in the blanks with an object pronoun adjective clause. Notice that the adjective clauses will be next to the nouns they describe or modify.

1. The movie _____ was interesting.
2. The doctor _____ was not in.
3. The woman _____ was not in class today.
4. The professor _____ is teaching in Turkey.
5. The car _____ broke down today.
6. The cell phone _____ cost \$300.
7. The people _____ visited us.
8. I like the classes _____.
9. The soccer team _____ lost today.
10. I should thank the people _____.
11. Chong Hui really liked the flowers _____.
12. Ramiro knows the woman _____.
13. The dishes _____ were a gift from my mother.
14. The grammar book _____ is like a Bible to us.
15. The dinner _____ made me sick.
16. The men _____ are not interested in intelligent women.

Object Pronouns with Prepositions in adjective clauses: In some cases, pronouns are the objects of prepositions. This means that they are used with verbs that need prepositions, like ***tell about, listen to, look at, talk to***, etc. In spoken English, we usually put the prepositions at the end of the clause, but in formal situations such as writing, they should be placed before the object.

He's the man (to whom I was talking) at the party.

He's the man (that I was talking to) at the party.

He's the man (I was talking to) at the party.

He's the man (who I was talking to) at the party. [Very informal. Speaking only.]