

## RESTRICTIVE AND NONRESTRICTIVE ADJECTIVE CLAUSES

### 1. Definition

- a. A restrictive adjective clause is one that is necessary to identify the noun that it modifies.
- b. A restrictive clause provides "essential" or "identifying" information and does **not** require commas.

### 2. Examples

- a. **The professor** who/that teaches English 1101 is an excellent teacher.
- b. **The woman** whom/that/∅ you met at my party is a former astronaut.
- c. **The newspaper** which/that is on the table has an interesting article on polar bears.
- d. **The television show** which/that/∅ I watched last night was informative.

### 3. Explanation

- a. The adjective clauses in these examples are essential in order to identify which professor, which woman, which newspaper, or which television show is meant.
- b. Notice that restrictive (essential) clauses can be introduced with **that**, **who**, **whom**, or **which** and that the object pronoun can be eliminated (**∅**) in examples **b** and **d**.

### 1. Definition

- a. A nonrestrictive clause is one that is **not** necessary to identify the noun that it modifies.
- b. A nonrestrictive clause provides additional, but "nonessential" information and requires the use of commas.

### 2. Examples

- a. **Professor Hach**, who teaches English 1101, is an excellent professor.
- b. **Sally Ride**, whom you met at my party, is a former astronaut.
- c. **The Miami Herald**, which is on the table, has an interesting article on polar bears.
- d. **Dateline**, which I watched last night, was informative.

### 3. Explanation

- a. The adjective clauses in these examples are **not** necessary to identify the nouns that they modify. We know which professor, woman, newspaper and TV show because they have been identified by name, so the information provided in the adjective clause is additional or nonessential.
- b. Nonrestrictive (nonessential) clauses **cannot** be introduced with **that**, and the pronoun object **cannot** be eliminated.