

The Adjective Clause A

6d. An **adjective clause** is a subordinate clause that modifies a noun or a pronoun.

An adjective clause usually follows the word or words it modifies and tells *which one* or *what kind*.

- EXAMPLES** There are some insects **that can survive inside blocks of ice all winter**. [The adjective clause modifies the noun *insects*, telling *what kind*.]
 Is Samantha the one **who helped you**? [The adjective clause modifies the pronoun *one*, telling *which one*.]
 That book, **which tells the story of an orphan**, is one of my favorites. [The adjective clause modifies the noun *book*, telling *which one*.]

EXERCISE A For each of the following sentences, underline the adjective clause.

Example 1. One entertainer whom we saw backstage was Mariah Carey.

- The music that you have just heard was composed by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart.
- Mr. Cohen, who conducts the school chorus, collects songbooks.
- Denver, which is situated 5,280 feet above sea level, is called the Mile High City.
- Is Florida the place where Ponce de León sought the Fountain of Youth?
- Ed White, whom NASA chose for the first spacewalk, was born in San Antonio.

EXERCISE B Underline the adjective clause in each of the following sentences. Then, circle the word or words that the clause modifies.

Example 1. The pteranodon, which was a flying reptile, had a wingspan of thirty-six feet.

- The fourteenth century was a time when many people died of the bubonic plague.
- Mollusks, which have either one shell or two, are classified as either univalves or bivalves.
- How many of the written records that were kept during the Middle Ages have survived?
- Antonia Novello, who was Surgeon General of the United States in 1990, is Puerto Rican.
- The lightning that flashes during a rainstorm is hotter than the surface of the sun.
- President Harry Truman was one of those people whose middle name is a single letter.
- Marian Anderson, who was one of the greatest opera singers, often struggled against racial discrimination.
- Nyos, in Cameroon, is a lake that sometimes releases huge bursts of carbon dioxide from its floor.
- Saving the tiger, which is an endangered species, may depend upon preserving its habitat.
- My sister spends much time working with my aunt, who is president of the local Red Cross.

The Adjective Clause B

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EXAMPLES Gary Soto is the writer **whom I selected for my report**. [The adjective clause modifies the noun *writer*.]

The principal told us everything **that we needed to know**. [The adjective clause modifies the pronoun *everything*.]

Jaime showed us the place **where the accident had occurred**. [The adjective clause modifies the noun *place*.]

EXERCISE A Underline the adjective clause in each of the following sentences.

Example 1. The speaker brought slides, which she showed to the class.

1. My aunt Becky, who is an editor for a university press, showed me her office.
2. The soldier with whom my grandmother corresponded during World War II eventually came home and became her husband.
3. *The Chocolate War* is the book that I read for my book report.
4. The project is called SETI, which stands for “Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence.”
5. The road that leads to the old mill has been washed out by the flood.
6. She served in the administration of Bill Clinton, who was the forty-second president of the United States.
7. My little brother is a kid whom you can really love.
8. She was the player whose skill at jump shots became legendary.
9. The corn bread that Tish brought to the party was gone within twenty minutes.
10. Dean gave his results to the scientist, who incorporated them into his report.

EXERCISE B Underline the adjective clause in each of the following sentences. Then, circle the word it modifies.

Example 1. I took my brother to the place where I first saw the stray dog.

11. The model whose face appears on so many magazine covers is a Rhodes scholar.
12. The pictures that we took on our vacation are missing.
13. The church where my sister was married is closed now for renovations.
14. This is the spot where President Kennedy announced the creation of the Peace Corps.
15. Was Ed Bradley the correspondent who reported the story?