47. **Subordinating Conjunctions Introducing Adjective Clauses**  
(*who, whom, which, that, whose, when, where*)

Subordinating conjunctions are words or phrases that introduce dependent clauses in a sentence.

Adjective clauses are dependent clauses used to do what an adjective does: modify or describe a noun. The seven subordinating conjunctions that introduce adjective clauses are: *who, whom, which, that, whose, when, where*.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FUNCTION</th>
<th>EXAMPLES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Use *who, whom, or that* if the adjective clause is describing a person. | - Mr. Rogers, *who* claimed to be innocent, was sentenced to three years in prison.  
- The criminal to *whom* the pardon was given expressed his gratitude.  
- The man *that* was arrested was later proven to be innocent. |
| Use *which* or *that* if the adjective clause is describing a thing or idea. | - The proposal *that* has been made to build a swimming pool has several benefits.  
- The swimming pool proposal, *which* the community supports, has several benefits. |
| Use *whose* to show possession. | - The man *whose* daughter is missing is in severe shock.  
- Dr. Gupta, *whose* patients mostly have Attention Deficit Disorder, is an expert on the disease. |
| Use *when* and *where* if the adjective clause is giving information about a time or place. Remember to add a subject after *when* or *where*. | - I became a doctor in the early eighties, *when* there were a few cases of AIDS.  
- The criminal was sent to a prison *where* there were thousands of prisoners. |

**Adjective clauses can identify a noun or just provide extra information** about the noun.

- **Identifying** adjective clauses are necessary to complete the meaning of the sentence.
- **Non-identifying** adjective clauses simply add more information.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>REMEMBER</strong></th>
<th><strong>EXAMPLES</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| For identifying adjective clauses:  
- Use any subordinating conjunction to introduce the clause.  
- Make sure **not to use a comma** before the subordinating conjunction (this is how the reader knows that the adjective clause is identifying the noun). | - The person *who gave me the bad news* is the committee chairman. (The adjective clause identifies the person.)  
- The proposal *that I supported didn’t pass*. (The adjective clause identifies the proposal.)  
- The man *whose daughter was just hit by the car* is standing over there. (The adjective clause identifies the man.) |
| For non-identifying adjective clauses:  
- Use any subordinating conjunction except *that* to introduce the clause.  
- Make sure to **use a comma** before the subordinating conjunction (this is how the reader knows that the adjective clause is just providing extra information.) | **Correct:** The 1989 Financial Aid proposal, *which* he supported, **did not pass**. (The proposal is already identified as the 1989 Financial Aid proposal.)  
**Incorrect:** The 1989 Financial Aid proposal, *that* I supported, **did not pass**. (You can not use the conjunction *that* to introduce an adjective clause that just gives more information.) |