

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*.

FUNCTION	EXAMPLES
Use <i>who, whom, or that</i> if the adjective clause is describing a person.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ <i>Mr. Rogers, <u>who</u> claimed to be innocent, was sentenced to three years in prison.</i> ■ <i>The criminal to <u>whom</u> the pardon was given expressed his gratitude.</i> ■ <i>The man <u>that</u> was arrested was later proven to be innocent.</i>
Use <i>which</i> or <i>that</i> if the adjective clause is describing a thing or idea.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ <i>The proposal <u>that</u> has been made to build a swimming pool has several benefits.</i> ■ <i>The swimming pool proposal, <u>which</u> the community supports, has several benefits.</i>
Use <i>whose</i> to show possession.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ <i>The man <u>whose</u> daughter is missing is in severe shock.</i> ■ <i>Dr. Gupta, <u>whose</u> patients mostly have Attention Deficit Disorder, is an expert on the disease.</i>
Use <i>when</i> and <i>where</i> if the adjective clause is giving information about a time or place. Remember to add a subject after <i>when</i> or <i>where</i> .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ <i>I became a doctor in the early eighties, <u>when there were a few cases of AIDS.</u></i> ■ <i>The criminal was sent to a prison <u>where there were thousands of prisoners.</u></i>

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.

REMEMBER	EXAMPLES
<p>For identifying adjective clauses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 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). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ <i>The person <u>who gave me the bad news</u> is the committee chairman. (The adjective clause identifies the person.)</i> ■ <i>The proposal <u>that I supported</u> didn't pass. (The adjective clause identifies the proposal.)</i> ■ <i>The man <u>whose daughter was just hit by the car</u> is standing over there. (The adjective clause identifies the man.)</i>
<p>For non-identifying adjective clauses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Use any subordinating conjunction except <i>that</i> 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.) 	<p>Correct: <i>The 1989 Financial Aid proposal, <u>which</u> he supported, did not pass. (The proposal is already identified as the 1989 Financial Aid proposal.)</i></p> <p>Incorrect: <i>The 1989 Financial Aid proposal, <u>that</u> I supported, did not pass. (You can not use the conjunction <i>that</i> to introduce an adjective clause that just gives more information.)</i></p>