

Identifying Relative Clauses

Relative clauses are a type of adjective clause. They describe **nouns** and answer questions like “Which one?” or “How many?”.

Relative clauses always begin with a **relative pronoun** or **relative adverb**.

Kyle ordered a copy of the **video game** that everyone is talking about.

Describes

Noun

Relative Clause

I can remember the **moment** when Lucy adopted her first cat.

Describes

Noun

Relative Clause

Ana's **motorcycle**, which I borrowed last week, can go 70 miles per hour.

Describes

Noun

Relative Clause

Common Relative Adverbs and Pronouns

where

when

why

that

who

whom

which

whose

Sentence Fragments

Rule: All sentences need to contain a complete thought.

Sentence Fragment Error:

Dave brushes his teeth in the shower .

Independent Clause

•
period

Which many people think is strange.

X

Sentence Fragment
(This needs to be connected to an independent clause with a comma)

Solution:

Dave brushes his teeth in the shower ,

Independent Clause

,
comma

which many people think is strange.



Dependent Clause,
(linking this to an independent clause with a comma makes this correct)

Using Commas with Restrictive Clauses: *that*

If a clause starts with *that*, **do not** put commas around it.

That introduces clauses and lets us know that **part**, but not all, is being described.

No Comma No Comma
The jewels that cost a lot of money were stolen from the safe.
only *some* of the jewels cost a lot of money

No Comma No Comma
My cat that has green eyes purrs when I rub its belly.
this is one of *many* cats

No Comma
I packed a sandwich that is topped with peanut butter and pickles.
this is one of *many* types of sandwiches I could have packed

When commas **do not** surround a clause, that clause is called “restrictive.” This means that that clause *limits* or *restricts* the noun(s) it describes, telling us “which one(s).”

When a clause starts with *which*, surround the clause with commas. These clauses are called “non-restrictive.”

Comma Comma
The jewels , which cost a lot of money , were stolen from the safe.
all the jewels cost a lot of money

What words make up the relative clause?

I always bump into the lava lamp that Dustin Henderson bought at a garage sale.

I always bump into the lava lamp **that Dustin Henderson bought at a garage sale**.

I read a book that described Miguel Rivera's accomplishments while listening to my new opera CD.

I read a book **that described Miguel Rivera's accomplishments** while listening to my new opera CD.

Mrs. Prince thinks that the pond where we caught geckos may be haunted.

Mrs. Prince thinks that the pond **where we caught geckos** may be haunted.

Fix any punctuation in the sentences below

I built a campfire last night. Which inspired John Oliver to tell ghost stories.

I built a campfire last night, which inspired John Oliver to tell ghost stories.

Katniss Everdeen loves to eat ice cream. Especially chocolate, strawberry, and mocha chip.

Katniss Everdeen loves to eat ice cream, especially chocolate, strawberry, and mocha chip.

At grocery store, Mrs. Prince only picked the carrots, that still had a little dirt on them.

At grocery store, Mrs. Prince only picked the carrots that still had a little dirt on them.