

7. Right-hand rear-view mirrors on cars, which show a wide area of the road behind, are usually convex, or curved outward.
8. Since the mirror in a flashlight is concave, or curved inward, it strengthens the light from a small light bulb.
9. If you remember the story of Snow White, you know the important part played by a talking mirror.
10. In the opera *The Tales of Hoffmann*, a man looks into a mirror and is frightened when he doesn't see his reflection.

EXERCISE 3. Writing Sentences with Subordinate Clauses.

Number your paper 1-5. After the proper number, write a sentence by adding an independent clause to the subordinate clause. Underline the subject of the subordinate clause once and the verb twice.

- EXAMPLES
1. who lives next door to us
1. *She is the woman who lives next door to us.*
 2. when I was in the sixth grade
2. *When I was in the sixth grade, I memorized the state capitals.*

- | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. when I bought the album | 4. as she began to sing |
| 2. who won the contest | 5. since my birthday was on a |
| 3. if my parents agree | Saturday |

The Adjective Clause

15d. An *adjective clause* is a subordinate clause that is used as an adjective to modify a noun or a pronoun.

When you studied phrases, you learned that an adjective phrase modifies a noun or a pronoun. An adjective clause also modifies a noun or a pronoun. Unlike an adjective phrase, however, an adjective clause contains a verb and its subject. The following examples show the difference between adjective phrases and adjective clauses.

ADJECTIVE PHRASE a plant **with blue flowers**
 ADJECTIVE CLAUSE a plant **that has blue flowers**

ADJECTIVE PHRASE a time **for reading**
 ADJECTIVE CLAUSE a time **that is set aside for reading**

The adjective clauses in the following sentences modify nouns or pronouns. Like the adjective clauses in these examples, most adjective clauses immediately follow the word that they modify.

Emma Willard was the woman **who founded the first women's college**.

The ones **whose projects are selected** will attend the regional contest.

The Relative Pronoun

An adjective clause is almost always introduced by a special kind of pronoun called a *relative pronoun*. Some of the relative pronouns are *who*, *whose*, *which*, and *that*. They are called relative pronouns because they *relate* to, or refer to, the noun or pronoun that the clause modifies.

EXAMPLE Gwendolyn Brooks is the author **who is the poet laureate of Illinois**.

In this example, the relative pronoun *who* begins the clause and relates it to the noun *author*.

EXAMPLE Those **whose books are overdue** must pay fines.

Here the relative pronoun *whose* begins the clause and relates it to the pronoun *Those*.

EXAMPLE The team's mascot, **which is a horse**, is called Renegade.

In the example above, the relative pronoun *which* begins the clause and relates it to the noun *mascot*.

EXAMPLE A snorkel is a hollow tube **that lets a diver breathe underwater**.

In this example, the relative pronoun *that* begins the clause and relates it to the noun *tube*.

EXERCISE 4. Identifying Adjective Clauses. Number your paper 1–10. After the appropriate number, write the adjective clause in the sentence. Underline the relative pronoun that begins the clause.

EXAMPLE 1. Thomas Jefferson, who wrote the Declaration of Independence, was our third President.

1. who wrote the Declaration of Independence

1. In his later years, Jefferson lived at Monticello, which he had designed.
2. Jefferson planned a daily schedule that kept him busy all day.
3. He began each day by making a note that recorded the morning temperature.
4. Then he did his writing, which included letters to friends and business people.
5. Afterward, he ate breakfast, which was served promptly at 9:00 A.M.
6. Jefferson, whose property included stables as well as farm fields, went horseback riding at noon.
7. Dinner was a big meal, which began about 4:00 P.M.
8. From dinner until dark, he talked to friends and neighbors who came to visit.
9. He also spent time with his family, which included twelve grandchildren.
10. Jefferson, whose interests ranged from art and architecture to biology and mathematics, read each night before bed.

EXERCISE 5. Writing Appropriate Adjective Clauses. Number your paper 1–5. After the appropriate number, write a sentence by adding an adjective clause that will make sense in the blank in the sentence. Write the entire sentence on your paper, and underline the relative pronoun. Remember that a clause must contain a verb and its subject.

Combine with Relative Pronouns

You can combine two short sentences by using a relative pronoun to make a complex sentence. A complex sentence contains one independent, or main, clause and one dependent clause. (See 698.2–698.3 for more information.)

Relative pronouns include words such as *who*, *which*, *that*, *whose*, *whom*, and so on.

COMBINE WITH RELATIVE PRONOUNS

Two Short Sentences

The Bay of Fundy has the world's highest tides. The bay is in Nova Scotia.

Combined Using a Relative Pronoun

The Bay of Fundy, which is in Nova Scotia, has the world's highest tides.

or

The Bay of Fundy, which has the world's highest tides, is in Nova Scotia.

TP/T Combine each set of sentences below by using the relative pronoun in parentheses. (A dependent clause beginning with the relative pronoun “which” is always set off by commas.)

1. At high tide, the water rises as much as 53 feet. This is as high as a four-story building. (*which*)
 1. At high tide, the water rises as much as 53 feet, which is as high as a four-story building.
2. Many people love exploring tidal pools. These people enjoy viewing sea creatures close-up. (*who*)
3. Tide-pool creatures can survive the varying temperatures of water and air. These temperatures may be as hot as 86 degrees Fahrenheit in summer or –22 degrees Fahrenheit in winter. (*which*)
4. Many animals and plants thrive in tidal zones. These animals and plants need constant moisture. (*that*)
5. At around mid-tide, you can hear what is called the “voice of the moon.” This “voice” is actually the roar of the tidal currents. (*which*)

Write NOW

Write freely for 5 minutes about a water-related experience. Afterward, underline any sentences containing relative pronouns. Also find two shorter sentences in your writing that you can combine using a relative pronoun.