

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*.

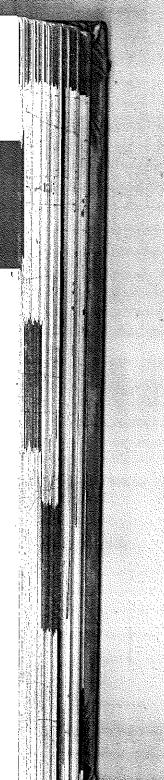
EXAMPLE The team's mascot, which is a horse, is called Renegade.

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.

- 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

Combined Using a Relative Pronoun

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

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.



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

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.