

Using Adjective Clauses

Adjective clauses can save you the trouble of writing a whole sentence to explain another sentence.

Original:	Lise enjoys hearing the sounds of nature. <i>She lives on a farm.</i>
Combined:	Lise, <i>who lives on a farm</i> , enjoys hearing the sounds of nature.

An **adjective clause** is a subordinate clause that modifies a noun or a pronoun. Adjective clauses usually begin with one of the following words.

<i>that</i>	<i>where</i>	<i>who</i>	<i>whose</i>	<i>when</i>	<i>which</i>	<i>whom</i>
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In the example above, notice that one of these introductory words is positioned near the word or words that the adjective clause modifies.

NOTE: Clauses that can be omitted from a sentence without changing the meaning are called **nonessential** and set off with commas. Clauses that are **essential** to a sentence's meaning are not set off by commas.

Essential:	The newspaper that I read every day is the <i>Chronicle</i> .
Nonessential:	The <i>Chronicle</i> , which I read every day, is adding a sports section.

DIRECTIONS *Combine the following sets of sentences by using adjective clauses. Add commas when necessary.*

1. Jemma listens to music through a set of headphones when she is at work. She loves the blues. (*who*)

2. Antonio watches the games on TV with his pets. His two greyhounds seem to enjoy college football as much as he does. (*whose*)

3. When I was ready to leave the mall, I couldn't find the parking spot. I had parked my car in the spot. (*where*)

4. After looking for months, Raphael finally found a camera. He thought his father would like. (*that*)

5. In practice, the coach didn't notice our mistakes. We thought she was very thorough. (*whom*)

6. Martin's drive to work is twenty minutes each way. It takes him through the most congested streets in the city. (*which*)

Answer Keys: (Answers will vary. The following are sample answers.)

1. Jemma, who loves the blues, listens to music through a set of headphones when she is at work.
2. Antonio, whose two greyhounds seem to enjoy football as much as he does, watches the games on TV with his pets.
3. When I was ready to leave the mall, I couldn't find the spot where I had parked my car.
4. After looking for months, Raphael finally found a camera that he thought his father would like.
5. In practice, the coach, whom we thought was very thorough, didn't notice our mistakes.
6. Martin's drive to work, which is twenty minutes each way, takes him through the most congested streets in the city.