

# The Writing Center

## DLA: Adjective Clauses



This DLA is a writable PDF form. You can enter your answers directly into this document.

**YOU MUST DOWNLOAD AND SAVE THIS FILE TO YOUR COMPUTER.**

**Do not complete this form in a web browser. You will not be able to save your work.**

Student Name:

### Important Note

To get completion credit for this DLA, make sure you complete all the required activities. If you'd like help while working on a specific DLA, you can meet with a specialist at the Writing Center. Keep in mind that you might need to schedule a second appointment to review your work, check your understanding, and get your completion credit. You can only review **ONE** DLA per appointment. (Check the last section of this DLA for information on making your appointment and receiving completion credit for your work).

### Activities (approximately 1 hour)

Read the information, complete the activities that follow, and be prepared to discuss your answers when you meet with a tutor.

### Understanding Adjective Clauses

An adjective clause—also called a relative clause—is a group of words that modify or **describe a noun**. Remember that adjective clauses:

- Contain a **subject** and a **verb**
- Begin with a **relative pronoun** (who, whom, whose, that, which)
- Are dependent clauses, which means that they **cannot stand alone** because they have no meaning without an independent (main) clause

Relative Pronoun	Used for:
who (+ verb)	people
whom (+ subject + verb)	people
whose (+ noun)	possessive
that	people/things
which	things

### Adjective Clause Patterns

Adjective clauses will follow one of these patterns:

#### Relative Pronoun as Subject + Verb

In this pattern, you **must have** a relative pronoun.

- The man who lives next door is in the hospital. (who = subject, lives = verb)
- The platypus is an animal that has fur and a duck bill. (that = subject, has = verb)
- Collecting stamps is a hobby which interests me. (which = subject, interests = verb)

## Relative Pronoun as Object + Subject + Verb

In this pattern, you **do not have to use** a relative pronoun.

- My grandmother is a person whom I can trust . (whom = relative pronoun as object, I = subject, can trust = verb) **OR** My grandmother is a person I can trust .
- The drawing that my daughter made is on display at the library. (that = relative pronoun as object, my daughter = subject, made = verb) **OR** The drawing my daughter made is on display at the library.
- The cake which I made is delicious. (which = relative pronoun as object, I = subject, made = verb) **OR** The cake I made is delicious.

## Possessive Relative Pronoun + Noun + Subject and/or Verb

In this pattern, you **must have** a relative pronoun.

- The man whose wallet I found lives down the street. (whose = relative pronoun, wallet = noun, I = subject, found = verb)
- That is the student whose mother won the lottery . (whose = relative pronoun, mother = noun, won = verb)

## How to Make Adjective Clauses

You can combine two independent sentences to make one sentence that contains an adjective clause by following these steps:

1. You must have two independent clauses that contain a repeated noun. Here are two different examples.
  - **Mr. Kent** is a teacher. **He** is very patient. / **The test** was hard. I took **it** yesterday.
  - 2. Delete the repeated noun and replace it with a relative pronoun. In the first pair of sentences, the relative pronoun replaces the subject. In the second pair of sentences, it replaces the object.
- Mr. Kent is a teacher. **He who** is very patient. / The test was hard. I took **it that** yesterday.
  3. Move the relative pronoun to the beginning of the clause if it is not already.
- Mr. Kent is a teacher + **who** is very patient. / The test was hard + **that** I took yesterday.
  4. Place the adjective clause right after the repeated noun (the noun that it is describing).
- Mr. Kent is a teacher **who** is very patient. / The test **that** I took yesterday was hard.
  5. When the relative pronoun is the object, it can be omitted from the final sentence.
- The test **that** I took yesterday was hard.

## Who vs. Whom

Both who and whom refer to people. When deciding which of these relative pronouns to use, you must look at whether you are replacing the subject or an object in the adjective clause. Who is used to replace the subject, while whom is used to replace an object.

### Using Who

1. **The woman** is a famous doctor. **The woman** wrote the article.
- In the second sentence, **the woman** is the subject of the sentence and should be replaced by the subject pronoun **who**.
2. **The woman** is a famous doctor. ~~**The woman** who~~ wrote the article.
3. **The woman who** wrote the article is a famous doctor.
- Move the clause right after the repeated noun.

### Using Whom

1. **The man** is wearing a tweed coat. I spoke with **the man**.
- In the second sentence, **the man** is the object of the preposition with and should be replaced by the object pronoun **whom**.
2. **The man** is wearing a tweed coat. I spoke with **the man whom**.
3. **The man whom** I spoke with is wearing a tweed coat.
- Move the relative pronoun to the beginning of the adjective clause and move the clause right after the repeated noun.

In more formal writing, the preposition moves with the relative pronoun **whom** to the front of the clause.

- The man **with whom** I spoke is wearing a tweed coat.
4. When the relative pronoun is replacing an object, it can be omitted.
- The man **whom** I spoke with is wearing a tweed coat.

## Restrictive vs. Nonrestrictive Clauses

### Restrictive Clause

A **restrictive clause** means that you need the information in order to understand who or what you are talking about. Because you **need** the information, **do not add commas**.

The English teacher **who** teaches at 10 a.m. is in a wheelchair.

- The English teacher is in a wheelchair. Which English teacher? There are many. This isn't clear.

### Nonrestrictive Clause

A **nonrestrictive clause** means that it is extra information, so you do not need it in order to understand who or what you are talking about. You need to **add commas** to show a nonrestrictive clause.

My English teacher, **who** was born in Johannesburg, speaks four languages.

- My English teacher speaks four languages. You can delete the relative clause and we still know which English teacher you are talking about.

**\*Note: You cannot use that in a nonrestrictive clause, only who, whom, whose, and which.**

## Activities

Check off each box once you have completed the activity.

### 1. Online Quiz

Go to <http://tinyurl.com/adjectiveclausesdlaquiz> and take the DLA Quiz. You must score at least 75% on the quiz before meeting with a specialist. After you complete the task, please take a screenshot of the page that has your score and show it to your specialist. Do not exit the quiz until you take the screenshot.

### 2. Adjective Clauses Review

Review the information on this sheet. Then, answer the following questions.

What is an adjective clause?

What are some relative pronouns and what are they used for?

## Choose 3a or 3b Below

### 3a. Correct Your Own Writing

Collect some of your graded work. Find a pair of sentences that have a repeated noun and write them down below (a and b) Then, follow the steps on this sheet to combine the two sentences to make **one sentence with an adjective clause**. Do it three different times and write the sentences below. Bring this work with you to the DLA tutoring session.

1. a.

1. b.

Combined sentence:

2. a.

2. b.

Combined sentence:

3. a.

3. b.

Combined sentence:

**3b. Write Sentences with Adjective Clauses**

Get the envelope in the DLA file that reads “Adjective Clauses—Activity 3b Word cards.” In it, you will find word cards. Choose only 3 of the relative pronouns below and make 3 sentences with adjective clauses. As you move cards around to form a sentence, make sure you pay attention to word order and punctuation. Try to use the different patterns that were previously mentioned on this sheet. Form a sentence using the word cards, write it down below, then form another sentence. Do only three!

1. who:

2. whom:

3. whose:

4. that:

5. which:

**4. Review the DLA/Receive Completion Credit**

1. Go to [EAB Navigate](#) and make an appointment (online or in-person).
2. Attend your session and be prepared to explain your understanding of the information you’ve learned in the DLA. Consider the main concept you learned and how you might use this in your future assignments/classes.
3. If your professor asks you to provide proof, you can review the “appointment summary report” through EAB Navigate (app or desktop). You will find all Writing Center appointments under “appointment summary reports” (app or desktop). Look for the summary report for your DLA appointment. This is where your writing specialist will indicate the title of your DLA and state whether it is “completed” or “not completed.” If it is marked as “not completed,” book a follow up appointment to complete.

Note: Appointment summary reports are also sent weekly to your instructor on record. If there is an issue, please contact us at [writingcenter@mtzac.edu](mailto:writingcenter@mtzac.edu) or (909) 274-5325.

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