

Possible Problems with Adjective Clauses

Be careful for the following common problems with adjective clauses.

1. An adjective clause must be together with another complete sentence. There need to be 2 subjects and 2 verbs.

NO: My friend who lives in Dallas.

YES: My friend who lives in Dallas will visit me soon

YES: My friend lives in Dallas.

NO: The girl whose sister is a singer.

YES: The girl whose sister is a singer got us some free tickets to the concert.

YES: The girl's sister is a singer.

2. The adjective clause must have a subject and a complete verb.

NO: Edmonds Community College, which located in the US, has a lot of international students.

YES: Edmonds Community College, which is located in the US, has a lot of international students.

NO: My teacher is very funny makes a lot of jokes in class.

YES: My teacher who is very funny makes a lot of jokes in class.

3. You cannot use an adjective clause to describe a pronoun (he, she, him, her etc.) (except for some special expressions).

NO: She who comes from Japan is my roommate.

YES: The girl who comes from Japan is my roommate.

NO: I'll give back the book to him who is in my grammar class.

YES: I'll give the book to the guy who is in my grammar class.

4. Do not repeat a pronoun with an adjective clause.

NO: The new book which I read it was very interesting.

YES: The new book which I read was very interesting.

5. The adjective clause must be just after the noun it describes.

NO: I went to San Francisco to visit my aunt and uncle where I used to live.

YES: I went to San Francisco, where I used to live, to visit my aunt and uncle.

6. If you are describing something very simple, especially using one adjective, it is usually better to put the adjective in front of the word.

NO: The dress, which is green, is very expensive.

YES: The green dress is very expensive.
(It is better style to use a simple sentence.)