

RESTRICTIVE AND NONRESTRICTIVE ADJECTIVE CLAUSES

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| <p>1. Definition</p> <p>a. A restrictive adjective clause is one that is necessary to identify the noun that it modifies.</p> <p>b. A restrictive clause provides "essential" or "identifying" information and does not require commas.</p> <p>2. Examples</p> <p>a. <u>The professor <i>who/that</i> teaches English 1101</u> is an excellent teacher.</p> <p>b. <u>The woman <i>whom/that/ø</i> you met at my party</u> is a former astronaut.</p> <p>c. <u>The newspaper <i>which/that</i> is on the table</u> has an interesting article on polar bears.</p> <p>d. <u>The television show <i>which/that/ø</i> I watched <i>last night</i></u> was informative.</p> <p>3. Explanation</p> <p>a. The adjective clauses in these examples are essential in order to identify <u>which professor</u>, <u>which woman</u>, <u>which newspaper</u>, or <u>which television show</u> is meant.</p> <p>b. Notice that restrictive (essential) clauses can be introduced with that, who, whom, or which and that the object pronoun can be eliminated (ø) in examples b and d.</p> | <p>1. Definition</p> <p>a. A nonrestrictive clause is one that is not necessary to identify the noun that it modifies.</p> <p>b. A nonrestrictive clause provides additional, but "nonessential" information and requires the use of commas.</p> <p>2. Examples</p> <p>a. <u>Professor Hach, <i>who</i> teaches English 1101</u>, is an excellent professor.</p> <p>b. <u>Sally Ride, <i>whom</i> you met at my party</u>, is a former astronaut.</p> <p>c. <u>The <i>Miami Herald</i>, <i>which</i> is on the table</u>, has an interesting article on polar bears.</p> <p>d. <u><i>DateLine</i>, <i>which</i> I watched last night</u>, was informative.</p> <p>3. Explanation</p> <p>a. The adjective clauses in these examples are not necessary to identify the nouns that they modify. We know which professor, woman, newspaper and TV show because they have been identified by name, so the information provided in the adjective clause is additional or nonessential.</p> <p>b. Nonrestrictive (nonessential) clauses cannot be introduced with that, and the pronoun object cannot be eliminated.</p> |
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