

The Adjective Clause A

15d. An **adjective clause** is a subordinate clause that modifies a noun or a pronoun.

An adjective clause usually follows the word or words it modifies and tells *which one* or *what kind*.

EXAMPLES There are some insects **that can survive inside blocks of ice all winter**. [The adjective clause modifies the noun *insects*, telling *what kind*.]

Is Samantha the one **who helped you**? [The adjective clause modifies the pronoun *one*, telling *which one*.]

That book, **which tells the story of an orphan**, is one of my favorites. [The adjective clause modifies the noun *book*, telling *which one*.]

EXERCISE A For each of the following sentences, underline the adjective clause.

Example 1. One entertainer whom we saw backstage was Mariah Carey.

1. The music that you have just heard was composed by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart.
2. Mr. Cohen, who conducts the school chorus, collects songbooks.
3. Denver, which is situated 5,280 feet above sea level, is called the Mile High City.
4. Is Florida the place where Ponce de León sought the Fountain of Youth?
5. Ed White, whom NASA chose for the first spacewalk, was born in San Antonio.

EXERCISE B Underline the adjective clause in each of the following sentences. Then, circle the word or words that the clause modifies.

Example 1. The pteranodon, which was a flying reptile, had a wingspan of thirty-six feet.

6. The fourteenth century was a time when many people died of the bubonic plague.
7. Mollusks, which have either one shell or two, are classified as either univalves or bivalves.
8. How many of the written records that were kept during the Middle Ages have survived?
9. Antonia Novello, who was Surgeon General of the United States in 1990, is Puerto Rican.
10. The lightning that flashes during a rainstorm is hotter than the surface of the sun.
11. President Harry Truman was one of those people whose middle name is a single letter.
12. Marian Anderson, who was one of the greatest opera singers, often struggled against racial discrimination.
13. Nyos, in Cameroon, is a lake that sometimes releases huge bursts of carbon dioxide from its floor.
14. Saving the tiger, which is an endangered species, may depend upon preserving its habitat.
15. My sister spends much time working with my aunt, who is president of the local Red Cross.