

KYLE BISHOP
ADJECTIVE CLAUSES

Restrictive Clause: An essential adjective clause

When an adjective clause is an essential part of a sentence, DO NOT offset the clause with commas.

1. When referring to a thing or things, use the relative pronoun *that* to introduce a restrictive clause.

The issue of the magazine that contains my article was sold out.

My house that overlooks the lake has six bedrooms.

2. When referring to a person or people, use the relative pronoun *who* to introduce a restrictive clause.

My friend who likes to work on cars can fix your convertible.

The old man who lives at the end of the street once worked for the CIA.

Nonrestrictive Clause: A nonessential adjective clause

When an adjective clause is not essential to the meaning of a sentence, offset the clause with commas.

1. When referring to a thing or things, use the relative pronoun *which* to introduce a nonrestrictive clause.

The latest issue of People magazine, which contains my article, was sold out.

My new house, which overlooks the lake, has six bedrooms.

2. When referring to a person or people, use the relative pronoun *who* to introduce a nonrestrictive clause.

My friend Joyce, who likes to work on cars, can fix your convertible.

Mr. Rogerson, who lives at the end of the street, once worked for the CIA.

Remember:

1. Use *that* and *which* with things; use *who* with people.
2. Use *that* with restrictive clauses (no commas) and *which* with nonrestrictive clauses (commas).