

Adjective Clauses: Restrictive vs. Nonrestrictive

Name: _____

Date: _____

What Are Adjective Clauses?

An **adjective clause** is a group of words that **describes a noun**. It often begins with words like **who, whom, whose, that, or which**.

Restrictive Clauses

These **are essential** to the meaning of the sentence. **No commas** are used.

Example: The student **who forgot his homework** got a zero.

Nonrestrictive Clauses

These **add extra information** and are **not essential**. They are **set off by commas**.

Example: My sister, **who loves to cook**, made lasagna last night.

Identify the Clause Type

Directions: Read each sentence. Underline the adjective clause and write **R** for restrictive or **NR** for nonrestrictive.

1. The book that I borrowed from the library is due tomorrow. _____
2. My brother, who lives in Seattle, is visiting for the holidays. _____
3. The bike which has a broken chain is mine. _____
4. Our teacher, who has a great sense of humor, told us a funny story. _____
5. I spoke with the woman who adopted the stray dog. _____

Add Commas if Needed

Directions: Rewrite each sentence. Add commas where necessary. Some sentences may not need any commas, in which case write “no commas needed”.

1. The house that Jack built is on the corner.

→ _____

2. My aunt who is a nurse works at the local clinic.

→ _____

3. The car which was stolen has been found.

→ _____

4. Mr. Harris who used to be our coach is retiring.

→ _____

5. The flowers that bloom in spring are my favorite.

→ _____

Combine Sentences Using Adjective Clauses

Directions: Combine the sentences into one using a restrictive or nonrestrictive adjective clause. Use commas correctly.

1. I saw a movie last night. It was directed by Christopher Nolan.

→ _____

2. The students finished early. They studied all weekend.

→ _____

3. My cousin is a talented artist. She lives in New York.

→ _____

4. The dog barked loudly. It was frightened by the thunder.

→ _____

5. Mr. Thomas is our principal. He is retiring this year.

→ _____