

**Adjective Clauses in Their Basic Forms
(Abridged Explanation)**

Adjective clauses in all their forms are often difficult for students to understand and even more difficult for teachers to explain. However, with a little bit of organization and a systematic approach, it is possible to master them.

As they say, a good place to begin is at the beginning. So, let me start by stating that there are four basic types of adjective clauses, and for instructional purposes it's helpful to separate them into two groups.

Group One sentences	Group Two sentences
Subject-Object	Subject-Subject
Object-Object	Object-Subject

The rationale behind this division is that when it's time to reduce these clauses, all the group one sentences reduce in the same basic way into a past participle adjective, and all the group two sentences reduce in the same basic way into a present participle adjective. This will become more evident later. Before looking at group one sentences, it's important to note that adjective clauses begin with something called a relative pronoun, and like all pronouns, relative pronouns simply replace a noun.

Relative Pronoun	Replaces...
who	a person (subject)
whom	a person (object)
which	a thing
that	a person, place, or thing
when (for group one only)	a time
where (for group one only)	a place
whose (possessive)	a person, place, or thing

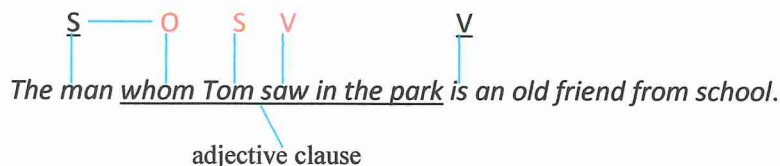
*It's not necessary to go beyond [*who/whom, which, and that*] for level three students.

Group One sentences:

A good type to start with is the Subject-Object sentence. Let's look at an example.

The man whom Tom saw in the park is an old friend from school.

In explaining this sentence it's helpful to start by asking students to identify the verbs and then the subjects and objects.

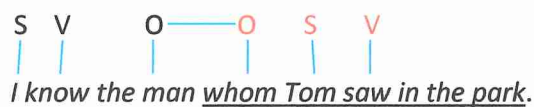


The Subject-Object sentence gets its name from the fact that in the place where the independent clause and adjective clause meet for the first time, we have a subject next to an object. This naming convention holds true for all of the adjective clause types.

Now let's take a look at the second type of clause in group one, the Object-Object sentence, with an example.

I know the man whom Tom saw in the park.

After identifying the subjects, verbs, and objects, we can find the independent clause and the adjective clause. We can also see that the object of the independent clause is directly next to the object of the adjective clause, thus giving the sentence its name.



The key difference is not the actual adjective clause, but where it is in the sentence. At this point we have the basic format for group one clauses, and can simply substitute in other relative pronouns to describe things, places, and times.

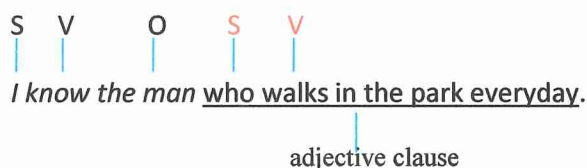
Group Two sentences: [active]

Let's now turn our attention to group two sentences which consist of Subject-Subject and Object-Subject adjective clause sentences. Let's look at an example, and identify the verbs and subjects.



The Subject-Subject sentence gets its name from the fact that in the place where the independent clause and adjective clause meet for the first time, we have a subject next to another subject.

A similar naming convention applies to the second type of clause in group two, the Object-Subject sentence.



After identifying the subjects, verbs, and objects, we can find the independent clause and the adjective clause. We can also see that the object of the independent clause is directly next to the subject of the

adjective clause, thus giving the sentence its name. As with group one clauses, the key difference is not the actual adjective clause, but where it is in the sentence. At this point we have the basic format for group two clauses, and can simply substitute in other relative pronouns to describe things, places, and times.



ex: The car which has no windows belongs to Tom.



ex: Tom bought a car which has no windows.

[Note: that “when” and “where” are not used for group two clauses, so the *places* and *times* are actually considered things.]

For example,



ex: The city which is very popular with tourists is near the coast



ex: Jessica enjoys visiting the city which is near the coast.



ex: The day that was warm and sunny was a good day to go to the beach.



ex: Tom remembers the afternoon that was warm and sunny.

[For a more complete explanation of adjective clauses in their basic forms, please download and read the entire article at: <http://www.teslimes.com/grammar/gr-acb.pdf>]