ADJECTIVE CLAUSES: ESSENTIAL AND NONESSENTIAL

Barry 2011
What is a phrase?

- A phrase is a group of related words that functions as a single part of speech and that does not contain both a subject and a verb.
Review

What is a **clause**?

A **clause** is a group of related words that contains both a subject and a verb and is used as a sentence or as part of a sentence.
Review

- Two kinds of clauses:
  - main clause (independent clause)
  - subordinate clause (dependent clause)
Review

- A main clause can stand alone as a complete sentence because it expresses a complete thought.
Review

- A **subordinate clause** cannot stand alone as a sentence because it **does not** express a complete thought.

- A **subordinate clause** must be combined with a main clause to form a sentence.
Review

☐ A subordinate clause DOES contain both a subject and a verb.

☐ However, like a phrase, a subordinate clause functions as a single part of speech.
Review

- A **subordinate clause** may function as:
  1. an adjective
  2. a noun
  3. an adverb
An adjective clause is a subordinate clause that modifies a noun or a pronoun.

It usually follows the word it modifies.

It answers the question What kind? or Which one?
Review

- An **adjective clause** usually begins with a relative pronoun.

- This relative pronoun serves as the subject of the subordinate clause.

- It also refers to another noun in the sentence.
Review: Relative Pronouns

that
which
who
whom
whose
whoever
whomever
Review

- Sometimes, an adjective clause begins with the adverbs where or when.
Essential and Nonessential

- **Essential** adjective clauses are necessary to make the meaning of a sentence clear.

- Clauses beginning with **that** are essential.
Essential and Nonessential

- **Nonessential** adjective clauses add information but are not necessary for the meaning of the sentence.

- Most clauses beginning with *which* are nonessential.

- Use commas to set off nonessential clauses.
Example Essential/Nonessential

☐ The sweater that you knitted for me fits perfectly.
Example Essential/Nonessential

☐ The sweater *that you knitted for me* fits perfectly.

essential

☐ Dr. Adams, whose train arrives today, is a well-known writer.
Example Essential/Nonessential

□ The sweater that you knitted for me fits perfectly.

essential

□ Dr. Adams, whose train arrives today, is a well-known writer.

nonessential
You Decide—Essential or Nonessential

☐ Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. dreamed of the day when freedom and justice would reign in the United States.
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. dreamed of the day when freedom and justice would reign in the United States.

essential (no commas)
You Decide—Essential or Nonessential

☐ The site where Dr. King delivered his great “I Have a Dream” speech in 1963 is the Lincoln Memorial.
You Decide—Essential or Nonessential

☐ The site where Dr. King delivered his great “I Have a Dream” speech in 1963 is the Lincoln Memorial.

essential (no commas)
You Decide—Essential or Nonessential

Liza Minnelli whose mother, Judy Garland, was best known for starring in *The Wizard of Oz* earned her own fame as a singer and actress.
Liza Minnelli whose mother, Judy Garland, was best known for starring in *The Wizard of Oz* earned her own fame as a singer and actress.
Liza Minnelli, whose mother, Judy Garland, was best known for starring in *The Wizard of Oz*, earned her own fame as a singer and actress.

*nonessential (commas)*
You Decide—Essential or Nonessential

☐ The vase that my family brought from the Philippines was made by my great-grandmother.
You Decide—Essential or Nonessential

☐ The vase that my family brought from the Philippines was made by my great-grandmother.

essential (no commas)
You Decide—Essential or Nonessential

☐ Pluto which is no longer considered a planet has three moons.
You Decide—Essential or Nonessential

☐ Pluto which is no longer considered a planet has three moons.
You Decide—Essential or Nonessential

- Pluto, which is no longer considered a planet, has three moons.

  nonessential (commas)
Write a sentence containing a nonessential adjective clause about this photo. Punctuate it correctly.
Write a sentence containing an essential adjective clause about this photo. Punctuate it correctly.