

Adjective clauses

Type of dependent clause

Contain a subject and a verb but do not make sense without the independent clause

Describe the noun directly in front of it

Begin with a relative pronoun (who, whose, whom, which, that)

Will use commas around the adjective clause if it is nonessential

Nonessential means not needed for the clarity and the meaning of the sentence

Ex: Edgar Allen Poe, **who is my favorite author**, wrote The Black Cat. The bolded adj. cl. is not needed for the clarity of the sentence, so commas surround it.

If the adjective clause is essential, commas CANNOT be placed around the clause.

Ex: I like the author **who wrote The Black Cat**. No comma can be used since the meaning of the sentence changes without the adjective clause. It is, therefore, essential.