Adjective Clauses

Definition:

An adjective clause is a dependent clause that functions as an adjective in a sentence. It provides additional information or modifies a noun or pronoun by answering questions such as "**which one?**", "**whose?**", "**whom?**", or "**what kind?**".

Structure:

An adjective clause generally begins with a relative pronoun (e.g., **who**, **whom**, **whose**, **which**, **that**) or a relative adverb (e.g., **where**, **when**, **why**) and contains a subject and a verb. The relative pronoun or adverb connects the clause to the noun or pronoun it modifies.

Examples of adjective clauses:

1. "**The book that I am reading is interesting.**" - The adjective clause "that I am reading" modifies the noun "book" and provides additional information about which book is being referred to.

2. "**She is the teacher whose class I am taking.**" - The adjective clause "whose class I am taking" modifies the noun "teacher" and indicates possession, showing that the teacher is the one whose class the speaker is enrolled in.

3. "**The car which is parked in front of the house is mine.**" - The adjective clause "which is parked in front of the house" modifies the noun "car" and provides additional information about which car is being referred to.

Functions of adjective clauses:

1. **Modifying nouns:** Adjective clauses provide additional information about a noun or pronoun, helping to specify or identify it more clearly. Example: "**I like the dress that she is wearing.**" - The adjective clause "**that she is wearing**" modifies the noun "**dress**" and tells us more about the dress being referred to.

2. **Adding details:** Adjective clauses can add details or descriptions to a noun or pronoun, making the sentence more descriptive and informative. Example: "**I met a person who speaks five languages.**" - The adjective clause "**who speaks five languages**" adds information about the person being referred to.

3. **Indicating possession:** Adjective clauses with relative pronouns "whose" or "of which" can indicate possession or ownership. Example: "**She showed me the house whose roof was painted blue.**" - The adjective clause "**whose roof was painted blue**" indicates that the house is the one with the blue-painted roof.

4. **Providing defining or non-defining information:** Adjective clauses can provide defining or non-defining information about a noun. Defining clauses are necessary to identify the noun, and they are not separated by commas. Non-defining clauses provide additional information but can be removed without changing the basic meaning of the sentence, and they are separated by commas. Example: "**The book that I am reading is interesting.**" (defining) vs. "**My book, which I am reading, is interesting.**" (non-defining)

Tips for using adjective clauses:

1. **Choose the correct relative pronoun or adverb:** The choice of relative pronoun or adverb depends on the role of the clause in the sentence (e.g., subject, object, possessive) and the noun being modified.

2. **Place the adjective clause close to the noun it modifies:** Generally, the adjective clause should be placed as close as possible to the noun or pronoun it modifies to avoid ambiguity or confusion.

3. **Punctuate correctly:** Use commas to set off non-defining adjective clauses, but do not use commas with defining adjective clauses.

4. **Be clear and concise:** Make sure the adjective clause provides relevant and necessary information without making the sentence too complex or wordy.

5. **Review relative pronoun usage:** Pay attention to the correct usage of relative pronouns, such as "who" for people, "which" for things, and "that" for people or things in restrictive clauses.