



Restrictive and Nonrestrictive Adjective Clauses

Restrictive clauses are essential to the meaning of the sentence and do not need commas to separate them from the complete sentence.

Nonrestrictive clauses are not essential to the meaning of the sentence and do need commas to separate them from the complete sentence.

Which Versus That

In general, **“that”** is used for restrictive clauses and **“which”** is used for nonrestrictive clauses.

Sentences classified by structure

Simple Sentences: 1 independent clause: *The baby cried for food.*

Compound sentence: 2 independent clauses separated by a semicolon or a comma and a conjunction.

They spoke to him in Spanish, but he responded in English.

Complex sentence: 1 independent and 1 or more dependent clause.

Because the soup was too cold, I warmed it in the microwave.

Complex- compound: 2 independent clause and 1 or more dependent clauses.

Though Michael enjoys watching comedies, he rented the latest spy thriller, and he enjoyed it very much.

Proper Punctuation Methods for Connecting Independent and Dependent Clauses

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|--------------------|---|
| IC.IC. | <i>Tom read the book. His friend saw the movie.</i> |
| IC; IC. | <i>Tom read the book; his is friend saw the movie.</i> |
| IC, CC IC. | <i>Tom read the book, but his is friend saw the movie.</i> |
| IC; CA, IC. | <i>Tom read the book; however, his is friend saw the movie.</i> |
| DC, IC. | <i>After his friend saw the movie, Tom read the book.</i> |
| IC DC. | <i>Tom read the book after his friend saw the movie.</i> |

IC= Independent Clause DC= Dependent Clause CC= Coordinating Conjunction CA= Conjunctive Adverb