**Using Adjective Clauses**

Adjective clauses (relative clauses) are like "sentences inside sentences." The "job" of adjective clauses is to modify (describe, identify, make specific) the noun phrases that they follow. In their full forms, adjective clauses have several parts: a relative pronoun (or, in some cases, another kind of connecting word), a subject, and a predicate (a verb and, often, other types of words which follow it).

In adjective clauses, the relative pronoun is a kind of connecting word: it joins the information in the clause to the noun phrase that it follows. Without the adjective clause, the meaning of the modified noun phrase (and of the sentence) is unclear and incomplete.

Examples (full forms):

I know a person who / that can help you.

I know a person who(m) / that you can help.

I know a person whose advice I can trust.

I know a person to whom I can refer you. /

I know a person who(m) / that I can refer you to.

I want a car that / which gets good gas mileage.

I can't afford the car that / which I really want.

**Types of Adjective Clauses**

**1."Subject Pattern" Clauses**

In this type of adjective clause, the relative pronoun is the subject of the clause. Subject pattern clauses can, however, modify both subjects and objects of sentences:

The man who / that talked to us was very friendly.

Do you know the man who / that talked to us?

**2."Object Pattern" Clauses**

In this type of adjective clause, the relative pronoun is the object of the clause (but an object pattern clause can modify both subjects and objects of sentences):

The people who(m) / that we met seemed very friendly.

The people to whom / that we werespeaking seemed very friendly. /

The people who(m) / that we were speaking to seemed very friendly.

I recently saw the people to whom / that we were talking. / I recently saw the people who(m) / that we were talking to.

**3.Clauses Showing Possession**

Here, the relative pronoun is possessive and is attached to another word in the adjective clause: The people whose names are called will work the first shift.

Do you know the student whose brother won a gold medal in the Olympics?

**Activity one:** Underline the adjective clause in each sentence below and specify its type.

1. Which person do you think will be able to complete the work?

2. The woman who lives next door, brought us some cookies.

3. There is a condo that I’d like to purchase.

4. Lincoln City is where I wish to live.

5. That cat that you found belongs to our neighbor.

6. The man who wore the hat was guilty.

7. Stephen, whose friends were from out of town, had a great time.

8. Summer, which is my favorite season, is usually hot.

9. English, which is my favorite subject, has a lot of good stories.

10. Los Angeles, is a the city where I was born.