

Advanced 2
Unit 1, Language Focus 2
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Defining and Non-Defining Adjective Clauses

Defining Adjective Clauses

These clauses provide essential information about the noun they modify. Without them, the meaning of the sentence would be incomplete.

Examples:

*The book **that you lent me** is fascinating.*
*Students **who study hard** usually get good grades.*
*The car **which he bought last year** is very expensive.*

Non-Defining Adjective Clauses

These clauses add extra information about the noun which is being modified. This information is not essential for the meaning of the sentence. Non-defining adjective clauses are separated from the rest of the sentence by using commas.

Examples:

*My brother, **who lives in New York,** is visiting us next week.*
*The Eiffel Tower, **which is in Paris,** is a famous landmark.*
*Sarah, **whose mother is a doctor,** is my best friend.*

The commas in non-defining clauses make it clear that the information is additional and not crucial to the main point of the sentence.

Important Point:

Don't use "that" in non-defining adjective clauses. Use "which" instead.

Example:

Paris, which is the capital of France, attracts thousands of tourists on a daily basis.

Point:

In some grammar book, "defining adjectives classes" and "non-defining adjective clauses" are called "essential adjective clauses" and "non-essential adjective clauses" respectively.

Source:

[Advanced 2 \(anglophone.ir\)](http://anglophone.ir)