

**Pre-Intermediate 2**  
**Unit 6 Grammar Part B**  
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## Reduction of Adjective Clauses

Reduction = making something smaller

Sometimes, an adjective clause can be reduced to an adjective phrase by removing the relative pronoun and the verb *to be*. This makes the sentence more concise and easier to read.

If you want to reduce an adjective clause, first omit the relative pronoun. Then depending on the meaning, use the **present participle** or the **past participle** form of the verb. You may also use a **prepositional phrase**.

omit = delete

**present participle** = verb + ing

**past participle** = verb + ed (for regular verbs)

**prepositional phrase** = a phrase which starts with a preposition.

### **Point:**

We can reduce an adjective clause only when the relative pronoun is the subject of the clause.

★If the adjective clause contains a present participle (verb + -ing), you can remove the relative pronoun and the verb to be. For example:

The man **who is wearing a blue shirt** is my brother. (adjective clause)

The man **wearing a blue shirt** is my brother. (adjective phrase)

The woman **who is killing the insect** is Mrs. Williams. (adjective clause)

The woman **killing the insect** is Mrs. Williams. (adjective phrase)

★If the adjective clause contains a past participle (verb + -ed or an irregular form), you can remove the relative pronoun and the verb to be. For example:

The book **that was written by J.K. Rowling** is very popular. (adjective clause)

The book **written by J.K. Rowling** is very popular. (adjective phrase)

The insect **which was killed by Mrs. Williams** is a rare species of butterflies. (adjective clause)

The insect **killed by Mrs. Williams** is a rare species of butterflies. (adjective phrase)

★If the adjective clause contains a prepositional phrase, you can remove the relative pronoun and the verb to be. For example:

The house **that is on the hill** belongs to my aunt. (adjective clause)

The house **on the hill** belongs to my aunt. (adjective phrase)

The butterfly **which is on the table** was killed by Mrs. Williams. (adjective clause)

The butterfly **on the table** was killed by Mrs. Williams. (adjective phrase)

★If the adjective clause contains an adjective, you can remove the relative pronoun and the verb to be. For example:

She is the girl **who is responsible for the project**. (adjective clause)

She is the girl **responsible for the project**. (adjective phrase)

★If the adjective clause contains a noun, you can remove the relative pronoun and the verb to be, and add a comma before the noun. For example:

Shakespeare, **who was a famous playwright**, wrote many plays. (adjective clause)

Shakespeare, **a famous playwright**, wrote many plays. (adjective phrase)

**Source:**

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