RESTRICTIVE AND NONRESTRICTIVE ADJECTIVE CLAUSES

1. Definition
   a. A restrictive adjective clause is one that is necessary to identify the noun that it modifies. A restrictive clause provides "essential" or "identifying" information and does not require commas.

2. Examples
   a. The professor who teaches English 1101 is an excellent teacher.
   b. The woman whom you met at my party is a former astronaut.
   c. The newspaper which is on the table has an interesting article on polar bears.
   d. The television show which I watched last night was informative.

3. Explanation
   a. The adjective clauses in these examples are essential in order to identify which professor, woman, newspaper, or television show is meant.
   b. Notice that restrictive (essential) clauses can be introduced with that, who, whom, or which and that the object pronoun can be eliminated (Ø) in examples b and d.

Restrictive (nonessential) clauses cannot be introduced with that and the pronoun object cannot be eliminated.

1. Definition
   b. A nonrestrictive adjective clause is one that is not necessary to identify the noun that it modifies. A nonrestrictive clause provides additional, but "nonessential" information and requires commas.

2. Examples
   a. Professor Hach, who teaches English 1101, is an excellent teacher.
   b. Sally Ride, whom you met at my party, is a former astronaut.
   c. The Miami Herald, which is on the table, has an interesting article on polar bears.
   d. Dateline, which is informative, was an interesting article on polar bears.