An **adjective clause** is a dependent clause that modifies a noun.

Examples:

The teacher, **who has red hair**, is planning to retire soon.
The purse **that I forgot on the bus this morning** is full of money!
Mt. Everest, **where so many people have perished to see its beauty**, is now home to an enormous garbage dump.

Rules: An adjective clause

- contains a *relative pronoun*: **who**, **whom**, **whose**, **that**, or **which**, or a *relative adverb*: **when**, **where**, or **why**.

- is not a complete sentence, so it must be joined to the word it describes.

- answers the questions: **What kind? How many?** or **Which one?**

- is either *essential* (you **need** the information it provides), or *nonessential* (the information is **not needed**). We use commas to separate *nonessential adjective clauses*.

For example:
Books which have more than a thousand pages are seldom read in one sitting. *(essential)*
Encyclopedias, which have more than a thousand pages, are seldom read in one sitting. *(nonessential)*

**Tip**: *Essential adjective clauses* are typically paired with *non-specific nouns*!