Adjective Clauses with Who and Whom

An adjective clause describes or gives information about a noun. An adjective clause that refers to a person begins with the relative pronoun *who* or *whom*.

who	replaces a subject (person) The student who is sitting next to me plays in a rock band.
whom	replaces an object (person) He's writing a song for his son, whom he named after his father.

Adjective Clauses with Which and Whose

An adjective clause describes or gives information about a noun. An adjective clause that refers to things and concepts can begin with the relative pronouns *which* or *whose*.

which	replaces a subject or object (thing) I just saw the movie Crazy Heart, which has good music.
whose	replaces a possessive form This is the singer whose song you just heard.

Adjective Clauses with That

To introduce an adjective clause, the relative pronoun *that* can be used instead of *who*, *which*, or *whom*.

Use that only with restrictive adjective clauses. A restrictive clause identifies the noun it describes.

Restrictive clause:

We paid the man whom we hired to sing at our wedding. Or

We paid the man that we hired to sing at our wedding.

(The adjective clause is necessary to understand who "the man" is.)

Notes:

- No commas are necessary with restrictive clauses.
- Don't use *that* with non-restrictive adjective clauses.
- A non-restrictive clause gives extra information about the noun it describes.

Non-restrictive clause:

We paid Dave Jones, whom we hired to sing at our wedding.

(We know who Dave Jones is. The adjective clause gives extra information about Dave Jones.)

Incorrect:

We paid Dave Jones, that we hired to sing at our wedding.

Note:

Use a comma to separate a non-restrictive adjective clause.