**Which Vs That: English Grammar**

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English has been the language of science, of aviation, computers, diplomacy, tourism. Whichever field you select, English is the most necessary thing right from the beginning as it will make the basis of your communication. Knowing and having command over a language such as English increases your chances of getting a good job in a multinational company. It’s one such language that is used at a global level. And so, we are again here to discuss the different usage of ‘which’ and ‘that’.

Everyone uses ‘*which’* and ‘*that’* every day for daily communication. But we tend to take these words for granted and just because these words are common it doesn’t mean they’re easy to use. To be very precise the clauses cause a lot of confusion, but we have found an easy way to remember which one to choose and where they should be used appropriately.

Always remember this tip:

* Always make sure you use ‘that’ in a defining clause.
* Use ‘which’ in non-defining clauses.
* Keep in mind, ‘*which’* is a word that can be discarded when it is not essential to use in a sentence. If you wish to remove the clause without destroying the meaning of the sentence, you can use ‘*which’*.

Now, let’s see what the basic difference between the usage of ‘which’ and ‘that’.

**Which vs. That: What’s the Difference in Usage?**

To understand the rule of English grammar as when to use ‘*that’* or ‘*which’*, it’s very important to understand clauses. So, by definition, a clause (also called an essential clause or a restrictive clause) gives information essential to the meaning of the sentence. The word ‘*That’* is always used in defining clauses. Let’s understand better with an example:

My car **that** has a broken seat is in the backyard.

In the above sentence, you can get the clarity that the speaker has at least one other car. The car he’s talking about is distinguished from his other car by its broken seat. If here you try to remove the clause “that has a broken seat,” you would lose all the implication that he owns more than one bicycle, and even if you somehow knew about the other cars, you wouldn’t know which one was in the garage.

With this understanding, now we can move over to the word ‘which’.

*‘Which’* is a word that introduces non-defining clauses. Unlike the defining clauses, a non-defining clause does not limit the meaning of the sentence. You may sometimes lose interesting details if you remove them, but the meaning of the sentence wouldn’t change.

Let’s see the same example with the usage of the word ‘which’ and ‘that’.

* My car, which has a broken seat, is in the backyard.
* The car, which is already out of gas, now has a flat tire.
* The stick that I threw hit the bleachers.
* I am annoyed with the dog that keeps barking.
* The situation in which you put us is very critical.
* The college from which you graduated is very prestigious.
* My dirt cycle that is green goes really fast.

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