Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Period \_\_\_\_

SAT: Punctuating Adjective Clauses

Definition of an ADJECTIVE CLAUSE COMPLEX SENTENCE:

An Adjective Clause is a Dependent Clause that begins with a **Relative Pronoun** and follows the noun that it modifies/describes. Essentially, it is a clause that works as a single adjective.

Example #1:

The loose goose ran freely through the playground and attacked the children.

Adj Noun

Noun Adj Clause

The goose that got loose from the neighboring farm ran freely through the playground and attacked the children.

Example #2:

Noun Adj Clause

The thumbless hobo, whom we chased with pitchforks and cow bells, retaliated and ambushed us at the bus stop.

A Relative Pronoun, like any pronoun, is standing in for a noun in the sentence. There are only six (6) Relative Pronouns\*:

\* Occasionally, *when*, *where*, and *why* can be Relative Adverbs.

That Which Who

Whom Whose What

Comma Rule for Adjective Clauses:

(1) An ESSENTIAL/RESTRICTIVE clause is necessary to understand the complete sentence. It restricts the *goose* to a *particular goose*. Therefore, do NOT use a comma. Look at Example #1:

The goose that got loose from the neighboring farm ran freely through the playground and attacked the children.

(2) A NON-ESSENTIAL/NON-RESTRICTIVE clause is not necessary and to understand the complete sentence. The *hobo* is not restricted by the clause; it is already clear which *hobo* we mean. Therefore, DO use a comma. Look at Example #2:

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**Examples of Complex (ADJ) Sentences:**

Let’s BOX the ADJ CLAUSE, draw an arrow to the noun it modifies, and add commas (if necessary).

1. The problem that Sami had with her previous boyfriend was his “Dorito breath” and hairy feet.

2. The straight-A student who has the drooling problem is Hanna.

3. The disoriented senior citizen whom we had caught in an old fashioned bear trap was used by the Solanco Fair as a side-show act.

4. Cody’s birthday party which had begun as fun and games turned silly with the arrival of a man in a Twinkie suit.

5. The Olympic judges never questioned the super-human curling skills of Anthony whose breakfast was a ripe banana and a spoonful of Creatine.

6. The lollipop that Emily gave to Courtney tasted like a wet foot.

7. Mr. Marsh served the sausage that he pulled out of his ear to the school children.

8. Teddy and Josh who went on vacation to Mexico smuggled a mariachi band through the U.S. border in their cargo pants.

9. Arooba often breathes a sigh of comfort in Mr. Gallagher’s room where her passion for meteorology is satisfied.

10. Gram Gram Rose didn’t understand the reason why no one would eat her toenail casserole.

Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Period \_\_\_\_

SAT: Punctuating Adjective Clauses: ANSWERS

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