

SKILL 9: ADJECTIVE CLAUSE CONNECTORS

An adjective clause describes a noun. Because the clause is an adjective, it is positioned directly after the noun that it describes.

This is the house that I want to buy.
ADJECTIVE CLAUSE

The house that I want to buy is quite expensive.
ADJECTIVE CLAUSE

In the first example, there are two clauses: *this* is the subject of the verb *is*, and *I* is the subject of the verb *want*. *That* is the adjective clause connector that joins these two clauses, and the adjective clause *that I want to buy* describes the noun *house*.

In the second example, there are also two clauses: *house* is the subject of the verb *is*, and *I* is the subject of the verb *want*. In this sentence also, *that* is the adjective clause connector that joins these two clauses, and the adjective clause *that I want to buy* describes the noun *house*.

The following example shows how these sentence patterns could be tested in the Structure section of the TOEFL test.

Example

The job _____ started yesterday was rather difficult.

- (A) when
- (B) was
- (C) after
- (D) that he

In this example, you should notice quickly that there are two clauses: *job* is the subject of the verb *was*, and the verb *started* needs a subject. Because there are two clauses, a connector is also needed. Answers (A) and (C) have connectors, but there are no subjects, so these answers are not correct. Answer (B) changes *started* into a passive verb; in this case the sentence would have one subject and two verbs, so answer (B) is not correct. The best answer to this question is answer (D). The correct sentence should say: *The job that he started yesterday was rather difficult.* In this sentence *job* is the subject of the verb *was*, *he* is the subject of the verb *started*, and the connector *that* joins these two clauses.

The following chart lists the adjective clause connectors and the sentence patterns used with them.

ADJECTIVE CLAUSE CONNECTORS						
whom (for people)		which (for things)		that (for people or things)		
S	V	adjective clause connector		S	V	
I	like	the dress	that	you	are wearing.	
S	adjective clause connector		S	V	V	
The dress	that		you	are wearing	is	beautiful.
NOTE: The adjective connectors can be omitted. This omission is very common in spoken English or in casual written English. It is not as common in formal English or in the Structure section of the TOEFL test.						

EXERCISE 9: Each of the following sentences contains more than one clause. Underline the subjects once and the verbs twice. Circle the connectors. Then indicate if the sentences are correct (C) or incorrect (I).

- C 1. I did not believe the story that he told me.
- I 2. Ms. Brown, whom did you recommend for the job, will start work tomorrow.
- ___ 3. The lecture notes which lent me were not clearly written.
- ___ 4. Sally has an appointment with the hairdresser whom you recommended.
- ___ 5. The phone number that you gave me.
- ___ 6. She is able to solve all the problems which did she cause.
- ___ 7. The day that she spent on the beach left her sunburned.
- ___ 8. Next week I am going to visit my cousins, whom have not seen in several years.
- ___ 9. Did you forget the promise whom you made?
- ___ 10. The teacher whom the students like the most is their history teacher.

SKILL 10: ADJECTIVE CLAUSE CONNECTOR/SUBJECTS _____

In Skill 9 we saw that adjective clause connectors can be used to introduce clauses that describe nouns. In Skill 10 we will see that in some cases an adjective clause connector is not just a connector; an adjective clause connector can also be the subject of the clause at the same time.

We are looking at a house that is quite expensive.
ADJECTIVE CLAUSE

The house that is quite expensive seems like a great house.
ADJECTIVE CLAUSE

In the first example, there are two clauses: *we* is the subject of the verb *are looking*, and *that* is the subject of the verb *is*. These two clauses are joined with the connector *that*. Notice that in this example the word *that* serves two functions at the same time: it is the subject of the verb *is*, and it is the connector that joins the two clauses. The adjective clause *that is quite expensive* describes the noun *house*.

In the second example, there are also two clauses: *house* is the subject of the verb *seems*, and *that* is the subject of the verb *is*. In this example, *that* also serves two functions: it is the subject of the verb *is*, and it is the connector that joins the two clauses. Because *that is quite expensive* is an adjective clause describing the noun *house*, it directly follows *house*.

The following example shows how these sentence patterns could be tested in the Structure section of the TOEFL test.

Example

_____ just dropped off a package for you is my sister.

- (A) The woman
- (B) The woman who
- (C) Because the woman
- (D) With the woman

In this example, you should notice immediately that the sentence has two verbs, *dropped* and *is*, and each of them needs a subject. The only answer that has two subjects is answer (B), so answer (B) is the correct answer. The correct sentence should say: *The woman who just dropped off a package for you is my sister*. In this sentence *woman* is the subject of the verb *is*, and *who* is the subject of the verb *dropped*. *Who* is also the connector that joins the two clauses.

The following chart lists the adjective clause connector/subjects and the sentence patterns used with them.

ADJECTIVE CLAUSE CONNECTOR/SUBJECTS		
<i>who</i> (for people)	<i>which</i> (for things)	<i>that</i> (for people or things)
S V <i>I bought the dress</i>	adjective clause connector/subject <i>that</i>	V <i>was on sale.</i>
S <i>The dress</i>	adjective clause connector/subject <i>that</i>	V V <i>was on sale was beautiful.</i>
NOTE: Although adjective clause connectors (Skill 9) can be omitted in informal English, adjective clause connector/subjects (Skill 10) can never be omitted.		

EXERCISE 10: Each of the following sentences contains more than one clause. Underline the subjects once and the verbs twice. Circle the connectors. Then indicate if the sentences are correct (C) or incorrect (I).

- C 1. The children that were vaccinated did not get sick.
- I 2. I did not vote for the politician who he just won the election.
3. The dog that barking belongs to my neighbor.
4. I took two of the blue pills, which were very effective.
5. We rented an apartment from the landlord who does he own the buildings on Maple Street.
6. She forgot to attend the meeting which it began at 11:00.
7. Any student who does not turn in the paper by Friday will fail the class.
8. The people which came in late had to sit at the back.
9. The courses that satisfy the graduation requirements they are difficult.
10. After dinner she went to visit her parents, who were living down the street.

EXERCISE (Skills 9-10): Each of the following sentences contains more than one clause. Underline the subjects once and the verbs twice. Circle the connectors. Then indicate if the sentences are correct (C) or incorrect (I).

- _____ 1. My sisters prefer to eat food that have cooked themselves.
- _____ 2. The boat that hit the underwater rock sank.
- _____ 3. The car which he was driving could not possibly be his.
- _____ 4. The children built a house in the tree that in the backyard.
- _____ 5. The cost of the trip which we wanted to take.
- _____ 6. The children are playing with the toys which their mother told them to put away.
- _____ 7. The guests who were seated around the dinner table.
- _____ 8. The students have to read all the chapters which are on the test.
- _____ 9. I really do not like the artists which you like.
- _____ 10. The stones that they were set in the ring were quite valuable.

TOEFL EXERCISE (Skills 9-10): Choose the letter of the word or group of words that best completes the sentence.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>1. Modern humans, who first appeared about 600,000 years ago, _____ <i>Homo sapiens</i>.</p> <p>(A) calling
(B) were called
(C) they called
(D) they were called</p> | <p>3. _____ drought-resistant plants which store water in fleshy tissue.</p> <p>(A) Succulents are
(B) Succulents
(C) They are succulents
(D) Succulents which are</p> |
| <p>2. The first writing _____ evidence of is on Mesopotamian clay tablets.</p> <p>(A) we
(B) that we
(C) has
(D) that we have</p> | <p>4. Benjamin Kabelsky, whom _____ as Jack Benny, was a famous comedian in vaudeville and on radio and television.</p> <p>(A) most people's knowledge
(B) most people know
(C) knowing most people
(D) the knowledge of most people</p> |

5. _____ that hunted other animals tended to have very narrow, sharp, curved claws.
- (A) For dinosaurs
 - (B) Dinosaurs are known
 - (C) Dinosaurs
 - (D) Like dinosaurs
6. The first eyeglasses had convex lenses for the aged who _____ farsighted.
- (A) had become
 - (B) they had become
 - (C) becoming
 - (D) it became
7. Chimney Rock, _____ 500 feet above the North Platte River, has eroded considerably in the last two centuries.
- (A) stands
 - (B) is standing
 - (C) it stands
 - (D) which stands
8. _____ that accompany recurring bouts of severe depression reduce bone density.
- (A) It changes hormones
 - (B) Hormonal changes
 - (C) The hormones change
 - (D) The change in hormones is
9. Willa Cather is an author _____ for her evocative and memorable vision of frontier prairie life.
- (A) whom readers
 - (B) the praise of readers
 - (C) whom praisings
 - (D) whom readers praise
10. Mars's tiny moon Phobos is a small mountain of rock that _____ from the asteroid belt by Mars's gravitational pull.
- (A) was probably captured
 - (B) it probably
 - (C) the probable capture
 - (D) probably the capture

TOEFL REVIEW EXERCISE (Skills 1–10): Choose the letter of the word or group of words that best completes the sentence.

1. _____ is famous as the home of the U.S. Naval Academy.
- (A) Annapolis
 - (B) Because of Annapolis
 - (C) Why Annapolis
 - (D) Because Annapolis
2. Some scientists think _____ be a planet but a moon of Neptune.
- (A) that Pluto does not seem
 - (B) not Pluto
 - (C) Pluto that might not
 - (D) that Pluto might not
3. With _____ of sophisticated oil lamps, elaborate tools were made to cut the wicks.
- (A) appeared
 - (B) the appearance
 - (C) the appearance was
 - (D) it appeared
4. Fort Union was the site of what _____ principal fur-trading post on the upper Missouri River.
- (A) the
 - (B) being the
 - (C) was the
 - (D) it was the

5. Since _____ commercial risk, it has to appeal to a large audience to justify its cost.
- (A) the face of the movie
 - (B) moving faces
 - (C) a movie faces
 - (D) to face a movie
6. A current of water known as the Gulf Stream comes up from the Gulf of Mexico, and then _____ the North Atlantic toward Europe.
- (A) it crosses
 - (B) crossing
 - (C) with its crosses
 - (D) crosses it
7. Systems _____ the two symbols 0 and 1 are called binary number systems.
- (A) use
 - (B) they use
 - (C) uses
 - (D) using
8. Genes, _____ the blueprints for cell construction, exist in tightly organized packages called **chromosomes**.
- (A) are
 - (B) they are
 - (C) which
 - (D) which are
9. The Earth's atmosphere consists of gases _____ in place around the Earth by the gravitational pull of the planet.
- (A) held
 - (B) hold
 - (C) it holds
 - (D) the hold
10. Oscar Hammerstein II collaborated with a number of composers including Jerome Kern, whom _____ in writing the musical *Show Boat*.
- (A) joined
 - (B) was joined
 - (C) he joined
 - (D) joining