Long working hours, which were originally designed to fit around men’s life, continue to circumscribe women’s work-life balance.

My brother, who is a teacher, lives in London.

* An *independent clause* contains and subject and a verb. **Independent clauses can stand alone.** (blue text above)
* A *dependent clause* does not have a subject. **Dependent clauses cannot stand alone.** (red text above)

**Use non-defining clauses to add information or comment.**

Use a *defining relative clause* for qualifying a noun or noun phrase or distinguishing between two or more nouns or noun phrases.

Defining relative clauses are a bit like adjectives, but they follow nouns/noun phrases rather than precede them:

Eg. Yesterday, I met a tall man. On Wednesday, I met a short man.

Eg. The tall man was nice but the short man was rude.

Eg. The man who I met yesterday was nice but the man who I met on Wednesday was rude.

There is clearly a workaholic pattern of behaviours that is a real part of life in most organisations and professions but one that has been little studies by academics.

* The red above is a noun phrase. Academic writing often like to use long noun phrases.

Kangaroos are not endangered. They only live in Australia. However, the number of Wallabys have fallen dramatically in recent years.

* Note that the first and last sentence talks about numbers. The second sentence is a digression. This second sentence is an independent clause.

Kangaroos, which only live in Australia, are not endangered. However, the number of Wallabys have fallen dramatically in recent years.

* This is a better sentence. The second sentence is dependent is a comment on the Kangaroos, and hence should be incorporated in the sentence.

1 The government set up an inquiry into falling educational standards, the outcome of which was a new secondary school curriculum

2 The government set up an inquiry into falling educational standards, the raising of which has proved difficult.

* Note the **importance of context** in these two sentences. This is an issue when there are two nouns in the sentence – the first refers to the noun of inquiry, the second refers to the educational standards.

While studying at Oxford or Cambridge is highly prestigious, University applicants should realise that there are many other institutions in the UK which can offer a high quality education

* When ‘while’ is used as a conjunction, it is equivalent to ‘although’, ie. we could replace the underlined with “Although studying”. Conjunctions link two full clauses.

Cognitive behavioural therapy is known to be effective in such cases, while being also widely available.

* Here we can replace the underlined with “And it is”. As a preposition, ‘while’ can mean ‘simultaneously’ or ‘although’, depending on the context.

The subject of an -ing clause should be the same as the subject of the main clause. Here are examples of clear (😃) and unclear (☹️) sentences.

☹️ On starting school, the researchers examined the children’s achievement.

(researchers don’t start school!)

😃 After watching the video, students answered ten questions.

☹️ In teaching these classes, the students have really impressed me.

(students don’t teach classes!)

☹️ In comparing the two groups, qualitative and quantitative data will be used.

😃 In conducting the research, the researcher became aware of the limitations of the method.

😃 By providing a neutral forum for countries to discuss their trading arrangements, the WTO plays an important function.

😃 In reviewing the literature, this essay will trace the development of Culture Shock theory and provide examples to show its growing sophistication.

(Observe here that the subject is a what (the essay), not a who)

☹️ In setting up these tools, some of the economic analysis of this chapter is inevitably technical, even though the more mathematical material has been banished to the appendix.

(the economic analysis can’t set up tools!)

1 As Beauregard (2004) has argued, understanding how home-work life balance affects productivity is crucial.

2 Beauregard (2004) has argued that understanding how home-work life balance affects productivity is crucial.

* The first sentence has an independent clause (in blue), and it is supported by the famous person who argued the idea. This shows critical thinking (I believe this is true, and it is backed up by that).
* The second sentence is just describing what someone said. This second sentence shows no originality and that you’re just quoting someone.