

LESSON

# 7

## Adjective Clauses, Descriptive Phrases

# ONLINE INTERACTIONS

Patrick Meier analyzes social media and satellite imagery to help with relief efforts around the world.



The dream behind the Web is of a common information space in which we communicate by sharing information. Its universality is essential.

— Tim Berners-Lee

# PIERRE OMI DYAR and eBAY



CD 2  
TR 2

Read the following article. Pay special attention to the words in bold.

Did you ever want to sell a birthday present **that you didn't like**? Or an old toy **that is taking up space in your closet**? In the old days, buyers and sellers were limited to newspapers, garage sales, and flea markets<sup>1</sup> in the area **where they lived**. But in the early 1990s, **when people started to use the Internet**, Pierre Omidyar had an idea. Omidyar, **who was working as a computer programmer**, realized that sellers no longer had to be limited to finding buyers **who lived in their local area**. He came up with the idea of eBay, **which he started as a hobby**. He didn't charge money at first because he wasn't sure eBay would work. Buying online requires you to trust sellers **whom you've never met**. But people liked eBay. Soon there was so much activity on eBay that his Internet service provider upgraded his site to a business account, **which was no longer free**. So Omidyar started to charge the sellers a small fee for each sale. Before long, this hobby grew into a big business.

By 1998, eBay had become so big that Omidyar needed a business expert. He brought in Meg Whitman, **whose knowledge of business helped make eBay a success**. She changed eBay from a company **that sold used things in several categories** to a large marketplace of seventy-eight million items, both new and used, in fifty thousand categories.

Many companies **that start out well on the Internet** later fail. When Whitman left the company, it started to decline. In 2008, John Donahoe was brought in as the new CEO.<sup>2</sup> He fired many people **who had been working there for years**. He understood that smartphones and tablets were changing the way **that people shopped**; people no longer had to shop from their home computers. He created an eBay app so that people could shop 24/7 and could pay with one click. eBay, **which was about to follow other Internet businesses into decline**, was brought back to life.

By the time Omidyar was 31, he was worth more than \$7 billion. The money **that he has earned** is much more than he needs. He and his wife signed a promise, the Giving Pledge, to give away the majority of their wealth during their lifetime to help others.

<sup>1</sup> *flea market*: a market where used items are sold

<sup>2</sup> *CEO*: Chief Executive Officer; the highest executive in charge of a company or organization

**COMPREHENSION CHECK** Based on the reading, tell if the statement is true (T) or false (F).

1. Omidyar did not start out with the intention of making money.
2. Because of John Donahoe, eBay was starting to fail.
3. Omidyar believes in sharing his wealth.

## 7.1 Adjective Clauses — Introduction

Examples	Explanation
I received a birthday present <b>that I didn't like</b> . You have to trust sellers <b>whom you've never met</b> . Omidyar changed to a business account, <b>which</b> was not free.	The adjective clause identifies which present. An adjective clause is a group of words that contains a subject and verb. It describes or identifies the noun before it. It is a dependent clause. In these examples, the adjective clauses describe the nouns: <i>present</i> , <i>sellers</i> , and <i>account</i> .

### Language Notes:

1. The following words mark the beginning of an adjective clause: *who*, *whom*, *that*, *which*, *whose*, *where*, *when*.
2. Sometimes an adjective clause begins with no marker.  
I received a birthday present **I didn't like**.
3. Some adjective clauses are set apart from the rest of the sentence by commas.  
John Donahoe saved eBay, **which was declining**.
4. An adjective clause can follow any noun in a sentence.  
The company hired Meg Whitman, **who knew a lot about business**.  
Meg Whitman, **who left the company to go into politics**, helped make eBay a success.



**EXERCISE 1** Listen to each sentence and fill in the word that marks the beginning of the adjective clause.

1. Amazon was founded in 1994 by Jeff Bezos, who predicted that the Internet offered an opportunity to make money.
2. Amazon, \_\_\_\_\_ is now the largest online retailer, began by selling books.
3. First Bezos made a list of about 20 products \_\_\_\_\_ could be sold online. He eventually decided on selling books.
4. Bezos wanted a name \_\_\_\_\_ began with "A." He decided on Amazon, because it is a place \_\_\_\_\_ is "exotic and different."
5. But a good company name is not enough. Bezos needed to hire people \_\_\_\_\_ talents would improve the company.

*continued*

6. Since many big Internet companies started in a garage, Bezos decided to buy a house \_\_\_\_\_ had a garage.
7. Bezos needed money to start his company. He went to his parents, \_\_\_\_\_ first response was “What’s the Internet?”
8. Some people thought that his parents would lose all the money \_\_\_\_\_ they invested.
9. His parents, \_\_\_\_\_ invested \$300,000 in his business, believed in their son's project.
10. The 1990s was a time \_\_\_\_\_ people were just beginning to use the Internet.
11. Bezos created a place \_\_\_\_\_ customers could make recommendations to other users.
12. Bezos and his parents were never unhappy about the decision \_\_\_\_\_ he made in 1994.

**EXERCISE 2** Underline the adjective clause in each of these sentences.

1. Amazon was founded in 1994 by Jeff Bezos, who predicted that the Internet offered an opportunity to make money.
2. Amazon, which is now the largest online retailer, began by selling books.
3. First he made a list of about twenty products that could be sold online. He eventually decided on selling books.
4. Bezos wanted a name that began with “A.” He decided on Amazon, because it is a place that is “exotic and different.”
5. But a good company name is not enough. He needed to hire people whose talents would improve the company.
6. Since many big Internet companies started in a garage, he decided to buy a house that had a garage.
7. He needed money to start his company. He went to his parents, whose first response was “What’s the Internet?”
8. Some people thought that his parents would lose all the money that they invested.
9. The 1990s was a time when people were just beginning to use the Internet.
10. Bezos created a place where customers could make recommendations to other users.
11. He and his parents were never unhappy about the decision that he made in 1994.

## 7.2 Relative Pronoun as Subject

The relative pronouns *who*, *that*, and *which* can be the subject of the adjective clause.

<p><b>Subject</b></p> <p>I want to sell an old toy. <i>The toy</i> is in my closet.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">↓</p> <p>I want to sell an old toy <b>that</b> <b>which</b> is in my closet.</p>
<p><b>Subject</b></p> <p>The person.....lives in another state.</p> <p><i>The person</i> bought the toy.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">↓</p> <p>The person <b>who</b> <b>that</b> bought the toy lives in another state.</p>

### Language Notes:

- Use the relative pronouns *who* and *that* for people. Use the relative pronouns *that* and *which* for things.
- A present-tense verb in the adjective clause must agree in number with its subject.
 

*People who **buy** things online like the convenience.*

*A person who **buys** things online likes the convenience.*

**EXERCISE 3** Fill in the blanks with *who* or *that* + the correct form of the verb, using the tense given to complete the adjective clauses.

- I have a friend who buys all her books online.  
present: buy
- People \_\_\_\_\_ books online can write reviews and give a book 1-5 stars.  
present: buy
- A person \_\_\_\_\_ the reviews can be influenced by the opinions of others.  
present: read
- There are many neighborhood bookstores \_\_\_\_\_ business and had to close because of online competition.  
past: lose
- There are people \_\_\_\_\_ successful businesses on the Internet.  
present perfect: create
- Omidyar and Bezos are two people \_\_\_\_\_ the potential of the Internet.  
past: understand
- Jeff Bezos is lucky to have parents \_\_\_\_\_ in his idea.  
past: believe
- Friendster and MySpace were two Internet companies \_\_\_\_\_ successful and then failed.  
past: become

*continued*

9. When you buy something online, you often see this: "People \_\_\_\_\_ this product  
past: buy  
also bought..."

10. You are encouraged to buy products \_\_\_\_\_ similar to your purchase.  
present: be

11. Pierre Omidyar gives a lot of his money to organizations \_\_\_\_\_ people in need.  
present: help

**EXERCISE 4** Work with a partner. Write a complete sentence, using the noun + the adjective clause given as the subject or object of your sentence. Write about computers, the Internet, or technology in general.

1. a computer that has little memory

*A computer that has little memory is not useful today. OR*

*No one wants a computer that has little memory.*

2. students who don't have a computer

3. children who spend all their time playing computer games

4. e-mail that comes from an unknown sender

5. websites that offer music downloads

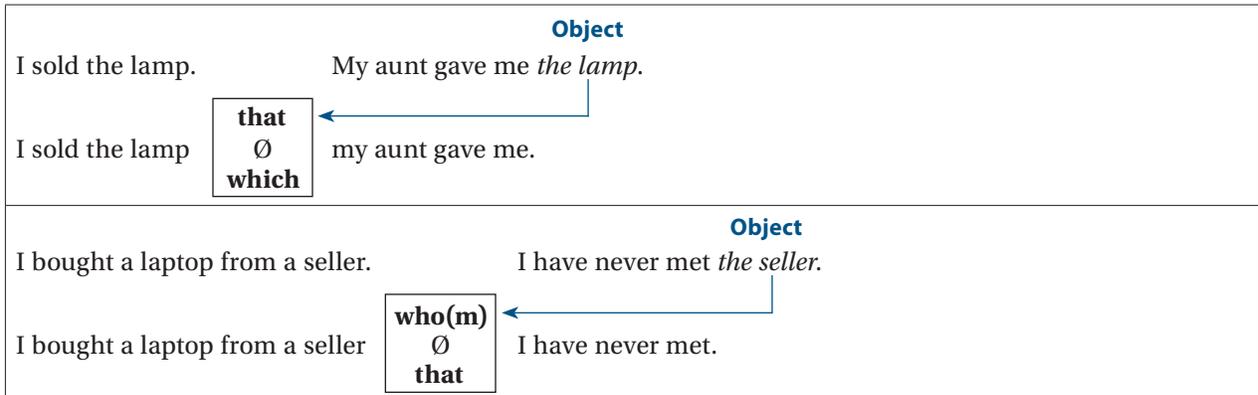
6. people who don't know anything about computers

7. kids who are born into today's world

8. a flash drive that has 10 MB of memory

## 7.3 Relative Pronoun as Object

The relative pronouns *who(m)*, *that*, and *which* can be the object of the adjective clause.



### Language Notes:

1. The relative pronoun is usually omitted in conversation when it is the object of the adjective clause.

I sold the lamp ~~that~~ my aunt gave me.

I bought a laptop from a seller ~~whom~~ I've never met.

2. *Whom* is considered more formal than *who* when used as the object of the adjective clause. However, as seen in the note above, the relative pronoun is usually omitted altogether in conversation.

Pierre Omidyar is a man *whom* I greatly admire. (formal)

Pierre Omidyar is a man *who* **OR** *that* I greatly admire. (less formal)

Pierre Omidyar is a man I greatly admire. (informal)

3. When there is no new subject after the relative pronoun, the relative pronoun is the subject of the adjective clause and cannot be omitted.

My neighborhood has a bookstore **that** has a reading hour for children.

4. When a new subject is introduced in the adjective clause, the relative pronoun is the object of the adjective clause and can be omitted.

My neighborhood has a bookstore **(that)** the children love.

**EXERCISE 5** In the conversations below, use the underlined words and other context clues to help you fill in the blanks with adjective clauses. Answers may vary.

1. **A:** I just bought a new computer.

**B:** But didn't you just buy one a year ago?

**A:** You're right. But the one (that) I bought last year is old already.

*continued*

2. **A:** I'm so tired of all the spam \_\_\_\_\_ .  
a.
- B:** What's spam? That's a word \_\_\_\_\_ .  
b.
- A:** You don't know the word "spam"? It's junk e-mail. Everyone gets it.
- B:** I don't get much spam. I have an e-mail address \_\_\_\_\_ just for shopping online.  
c.  
I don't use it for anything else. I often buy shoes online.
- A:** How do you know if they're going to fit?
- B:** The shoes \_\_\_\_\_ are always the same, so I don't have to worry about the size.  
d.  
Besides, if I don't want the item, I can return it.
- A:** Don't you have to pay to send things back?
- B:** That depends on the company \_\_\_\_\_. If you use certain companies, they  
e.  
offer free returns. You should try online shopping. You can save a lot of time.
- A:** You prefer that method. But that's not for me. The method \_\_\_\_\_ is driving to  
f.  
a mall, getting exercise by walking into the store, trying on the shoes, and walking back to my car.
- B:** I don't need exercise walking into a store. I get all the exercise \_\_\_\_\_ with  
g.  
my new running shoes.
3. **A:** Do you want to see a picture of my new girlfriend, Nina?
- B:** I didn't know you had a new girlfriend. What happened to the last girlfriend  
\_\_\_\_\_ ? Carla, right?  
a.
- A:** Yeah, Carla. She thought I spent too much time taking pictures, texting, and using the Internet.  
So she broke up with me.
- B:** I see you still have some pictures of Carla on your phone.
- A:** Oh, right. I'd better delete the pictures \_\_\_\_\_ of Carla before Nina sees them.  
b.
- B:** Let me give you some advice. You'd better put down your phone and spend more time with Nina.
- A:** I hope I can follow the advice \_\_\_\_\_ me. If not, I'll lose Nina.  
c.

4. **A:** Can I see your new phone? Wow. Look at all the apps \_\_\_\_\_ a.
- B:** I know I've got a lot of apps.
- A:** You must spend a lot of money on new apps.
- B:** Not really. Most of the apps \_\_\_\_\_ b. are free.
- A:** I see you've got a new phone case. It's not as cool as the last one \_\_\_\_\_. c. Why did you change?
- B:** This was a gift from my grandmother. It was the present \_\_\_\_\_ d. me for my birthday. I don't want her to feel hurt. I just wish she'd give me a gift card and let me pick out my own present.
- A:** I'm sure she meant well.
5. **A:** I found a great site for planning a trip. Owners rent out their houses to vacationers. Look. I'll show it to you.
- B:** Wow! I see that's a beautiful house with a swimming pool. Does it really look like that?
- A:** The pictures \_\_\_\_\_ a. here are pretty accurate. This is the house \_\_\_\_\_ b. last summer and it was great. The house \_\_\_\_\_ c. next year is even more beautiful.
- B:** Why don't you just get a hotel room? What's the advantage of renting a home?
- A:** The hotel rooms \_\_\_\_\_ d. in the past were small. By renting a home, we have a kitchen, so we can cook and save money that way.
- B:** How much does it cost?
- A:** This one costs \$1,500 for the week, plus a security deposit.
- B:** Wow! \$1,500 sounds like a lot of money.
- A:** We split the money between the number of people in our group. And the more friends \_\_\_\_\_ e. to go with us, the cheaper it'll be.
- B:** If you can't find anyone else, I'll go with you!

## 7.4 Relative Pronoun as Object of Preposition

The relative pronoun can be the object of a preposition (*to, about, with, of, etc.*).

		<b>Prep. Object</b>
		I sold my computer <b>to</b> <i>a person</i> .
The person	<b>who(m)</b> ∅ <b>that</b>	←
		I sold my computer <b>to</b> paid me \$200. (Informal)
The person <b>to whom</b> I sold my computer paid me \$200. (Formal)		
		<b>Prep. Object</b>
		Bezos started the business <b>with</b> <i>this money</i> .
The money	<b>that</b> ∅ <b>which</b>	←
		Bezos started his business <b>with</b> came from his parents.
The money <b>with which</b> Bezos started his business came from his parents.		

### Language Notes:

- The relative pronouns can be the object of a preposition (*to, about, with, of, etc.*).
- Informally, most native speakers put the preposition at the end of the adjective clause.  
The relative pronoun is usually omitted.  
The person I sold my computer **to** paid me \$200.  
Do you know the person you bought your laptop **from**?
- In formal English, the preposition comes before the relative pronoun, and only *whom* and *which* may be used. *That* is not used directly after a preposition.  
The person **to whom** I sold my computer paid me \$200. (NOT: *to who* or *to that*)  
The money **with which** Bezos started his business came from his parents. (NOT: *to that*)

**EXERCISE 6** Make these sentences more informal by taking out the relative pronoun and putting the preposition at the end of the adjective clause.

- There are several travel websites in which I am interested.

*There are several travel websites I'm interested in.*

---

- There is a new website about which everyone is talking.

---

- The link on which you click will take you to that site.

---

- The information for which you are looking can be found on that site.

---

5. Vacation Rentals is not a website with which I'm familiar.

\_\_\_\_\_

6. Finding a vacation home online is not a method to which I'm accustomed.

\_\_\_\_\_

7. The house on which we decided is in the mountains.

\_\_\_\_\_

8. The owner to whom I spoke was very helpful.

\_\_\_\_\_

9. There's one thing about which I'm sure: renting a vacation home is a good deal.

\_\_\_\_\_

**EXERCISE 7** Combine the two sentences to make one. Write each sentence in the formal and informal way starting with the words given.

1. This site has vacation rentals. I'm interested in these vacation rentals.

This site *has vacation rentals (which/that) I'm interested in.* \_\_\_\_\_

This site *has vacation rentals in which I'm interested.* \_\_\_\_\_

2. I'm interested in a house. The house has three bedrooms.

The house \_\_\_\_\_

The house \_\_\_\_\_

3. I'm taking a vacation with some friends. These friends want to rent a house.

The friends \_\_\_\_\_

The friends \_\_\_\_\_

4. I got a lot of information from a person. I spoke to the person.

I got a lot of information from the person \_\_\_\_\_

I got a lot of information from the person \_\_\_\_\_

5. We are responsible for only one thing. We are responsible for cleaning the house.

The only thing \_\_\_\_\_

The only thing \_\_\_\_\_

# The FREecycle NETWORK™



Read the following article. Pay special attention to the words in bold.

Do you have an old computer that you don't need anymore? Or are you trying to find an extra TV but don't want to spend money? Then The Freecycle Network is for you. The name combines the word “free” and the word “recycle.” The Freecycle Network is an online community **whose** members help each other get what they need—for free! Unlike eBay, Freecycle is a geographical community. You join in the area **where** you live.

Americans generate almost five pounds of garbage per person per day. About 55 percent of this garbage is buried in what is called “landfill.” Buried garbage can cause environmental problems. This garbage often contains useful items that other people may need.

The Freecycle Network was created in 2003 by Deron Beal, **whose** idea was to protect the environment by keeping usable goods out of landfill. He also wanted to encourage neighbors to help each other. He started his network in Tucson, Arizona, **where** he lives. He sent an e-mail to about thirty or forty friends to see if they wanted to join. His Freecycle community grew quickly. Today there are more than seven million members in over five thousand groups around the world. The Freecycle Network reports that its members are keeping five hundred tons of goods out of landfill each day.

How do members deliver or receive the item? The person **whose** offered item you want will let you know the place **where** you can pick it up. Very often, the item will be left in front of the giver's house for the receiver. The giver will specify a time **when** the receiver can pick up the item. Sometimes the giver and receiver will meet.

It's always important to be polite. You should always send a thank-you e-mail to the person **whose** item you received.



Artist Mike Stilkey uses discarded books to create art pieces.

**COMPREHENSION CHECK** Based on the reading, tell if the statement is true (T) or false (F).

1. Users of Freecycle sometimes have to send packages to other cities.
2. Unwanted items are often buried in landfill.
3. Freecycle is similar to eBay.

## 7.5 Place and Time in Adjective Clauses

Examples	Explanation
The city <b>where</b> I live has a recycling group. The city <b>in which</b> I live has a recycling group. The city <b>(that)</b> I live <b>in</b> has a recycling group.	We can express place in an adjective clause with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>where</i> to mean "in that place."</li> <li>• a preposition + <i>which</i>. (formal)</li> <li>• <i>that/which</i> or <math>\emptyset</math> + clause + preposition.</li> </ul>
Please decide on a time period <b>(when)</b> you can pick up the item. Please decide on a time period <b>during which</b> you can pick up the item.	We can express time in an adjective clause with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>when</i> or <math>\emptyset</math>.</li> <li>• a preposition + <i>which</i>. (formal)</li> </ul>
My front door is the place <b>where</b> I leave packages for others. My front door is the place <b>that</b> shows my address.	<i>Where</i> means <i>in that place</i> or <i>there</i> . (I leave packages there.) <i>That</i> refers to the noun that precedes it. (The place shows my address.)
The 1990s was a time <b>when</b> the Internet was new.	<i>When</i> means <i>at that time</i> or <i>then</i> . (The Internet was new then.)
The 1990s was a decade <b>that</b> I don't remember well. I was just a small child.	<i>That</i> refers to the noun that precedes it. (I don't remember that decade.)

**EXERCISE 8** Circle the correct words to complete the conversation. In some cases, both choices are correct, so circle both options.

**A:** Grandma, I can't imagine a time (when/where) there were no computers.  
1.

**B:** It wasn't such a long time ago. When I was in high school, we had never seen a computer. We used typewriters to write our papers. There was a special room in my school (*where/that*) you could go and use the typewriters.  
2.

**A:** You mean like a computer lab?

**B:** Something like that. Later I read a book about computers, and I wanted to know more. At the time ( $\emptyset$ /*when*) I first became interested in computers, I didn't know anyone who had one.  
3.

*continued*

**A:** Did you buy your computer online?

**B:** Oh, no. I'm talking about a time (*when/about which*) no one had even heard of the Internet. There were  
4.  
very few stores (*Ø/where*) you could buy computers. And they were so expensive.  
5.

**A:** More than \$500?

**B:** More than \$2,000!

**A:** Wow! It must have had a big memory.

**B:** Absolutely not. I'm talking about a time (*when/that*) 100 kilobytes was considered a big memory. The  
6.  
computer tower was very big. I had to find a place under my desk (*that/where*) I could put the tower.  
7.

**A:** Who taught you to use it?

**B:** I had to find a time (*which/when*) I could study on my own because I had no one to help me. Later  
8.  
I started taking a class at a community college near my house. Did you know that there was a time  
(*Ø/when*) most computer students were guys? I was the only woman in the class.  
9.

**A:** Grandma. I'm so proud of you. What happened to your first computer?

**B:** For many years, it was in my garage. Then I decided to put it on a website (*where/that*) people go in  
10.  
order to buy old computers.

**A:** Why would anyone want such an old computer?

**B:** There are collectors who consider my first computer a collector's item.

**A:** Cool. So, Grandma, you were ahead of your time.

**B:** I guess I was. But now, when I have a computer question, I have to ask my grandchildren. It's just hard to  
find a time (*when/where*) you're not too busy to give your old grandma some help.  
11.

**EXERCISE 9** **About You** Write the name of three websites you use frequently. Tell what a person can find on these websites. Share your answers with a partner.

1. Weather.com is a site where you can find out the weather in your area.
2. CCC.edu is a site that has a listing of college courses in Chicago.
3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

**EXERCISE 10** **About You** Write three years or time periods. Tell what happened at that time. Share your answers with a partner.

1. *2012 was the year (when) I got married.*

2. *December 22 through January 5 were the weeks during which we had our winter break.*

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

## 7.6 Whose in Adjective Clauses

*Whose* is the possessive form of *who*. It stands for *his, her, its, their*, or the possessive form of the noun.

*Whose* + noun can be the subject of the adjective clause.

Freecycle is an online community. **Its members** help each other.

Freecycle is an online community **whose members help each other**.

People can offer their kids' old clothes. **Their children** are growing.

People **whose children are growing** can offer their kids' old clothes.

*Whose* + noun can be the object of the adjective clause.

You should always thank the person. You received **her item**.

You should always thank the person **whose item you received**.

You want **a person's item**. The person will suggest a way for you to get it.

The person **whose item you want** will suggest a way for you to get it.

**EXERCISE 11** Suppose you find these sentences on a recycling site. Write one sentence using *whose* to tell what each person needs or offers to give away.

1. "My basement was flooded. I need new furniture."

*A person whose basement was flooded needs new furniture.*

---

2. "My radio broke. I need a new one."

---

3. "My daughter needs a violin. She's in the school orchestra."

---

4. "My bicycle was stolen. I need one to get to work."

---

5. "My new apartment is small. I want to give away a lot of books."

---

6. "My laptop doesn't work anymore. I need a new one."

---

7. "My children are grown now. I want to give away their toys."

---

8. "My kids are starting school. I need two backpacks."

---

**EXERCISE 12** Use the sentence given to form an adjective with *whose*.

- The person whose tablet I bought wanted to get the latest model.  
I bought this person's tablet.
- The person \_\_\_\_\_ was very helpful.  
I found this person's vacation rental online.
- The person \_\_\_\_\_ didn't charge me for shipping.  
I bought this person's computer online.
- I have a friend on a social media site \_\_\_\_\_.  
I don't like this person's profile picture.
- The person \_\_\_\_\_ is an old friend of mine.  
I received her picture by e-mail.
- I need to re-enter the e-mail addresses of people \_\_\_\_\_.  
I accidentally deleted their names.
- The person \_\_\_\_\_ is my best friend.  
You see his picture on my page.
- The teacher \_\_\_\_\_ has a course website.  
We're taking this teacher's class.

## 7.7 Adjective Clauses after Indefinite Pronouns

Examples	Explanation
Everyone <b>who sells on eBay</b> has to pay a fee. I know someone <b>who always shops online</b> .	The relative pronoun after an indefinite pronoun ( <i>someone, something, everyone, everything, no one, nothing, anything</i> ) can be the subject of the adjective clause. The relative pronoun cannot be omitted.
No one wanted anything <b>(that) I posted online</b> . Almost everyone <b>(that/who/whom) I know</b> has posted a photo online.	The relative pronoun after an indefinite pronoun can be the object of the adjective clause. In this case, it is usually omitted.

**EXERCISE 13** Fill in the blanks with an adjective clause. Use the underlined verb to help you. Use the correct verb tense.

- A:** I know you've gotten a lot of things online. How has that worked out for you?

**B:** I'm happy with everything (that) I have gotten online.
- A:** Do you need to buy anything for your new apartment?

**B:** Not anymore. I found almost everything \_\_\_\_\_ for free on Freecycle..
- A:** I heard you've bought a lot of things online.

**B:** So far, everything \_\_\_\_\_ has been great.

*continued*

4. **A:** My mother still uses a flip phone. Can you believe it?
- B:** I don't know anyone \_\_\_\_\_ a flip phone anymore. Everyone \_\_\_\_\_ uses a smartphone.
- a.
- b.
- A:** I know one person who doesn't use a cell phone at all—my grandpa.
5. **A:** I sent you an e-mail about vacation rentals. Did you get it?
- B:** I didn't see anything \_\_\_\_\_ me about vacation rentals. Oh, wait. Now I see it.
6. **A:** Something \_\_\_\_\_ me about this shopping website was very important, but I forgot it.
- B:** I told you that this site offers free shipping.
7. **A:** I saw the beautiful pictures of your vacation rental online. Were the pictures accurate?
- B:** The house was exactly like everything \_\_\_\_\_ in the pictures. Maybe the house was even prettier.
8. **A:** I heard you can rent a vacation home online. Do you have to pay a security deposit?
- B:** Yes. Everyone \_\_\_\_\_ this house has to pay a security deposit.
9. **A:** Do you want to spend money on a new bicycle or get a used one for free?
- B:** I don't know anyone \_\_\_\_\_ to spend money when you can get something for free.
10. **A:** Grandma. You should have a social media account. You can communicate with all your friends that way
- B:** I don't know anyone my age \_\_\_\_\_ a social media account. People my age prefer to pick up the phone and talk.



# TIM BERNERS-LEE



Read the following article. Pay special attention to the words in bold.

Amazon, Google, eBay ... it was not so long ago that these websites did not exist. These sites, **which are common names for us today**, were made possible because of the vision of one person: Tim Berners-Lee. Berners-Lee is not famous like Bill Gates, **who created Microsoft**, or Steve Jobs, **whose name is easily associated with Apple computers**. Berners-Lee is the creator of the World Wide Web.

Berners-Lee was born in England in 1955, **when the computer was still a new invention**. His parents, **whom he credits with giving him his love of learning**, helped design the first commercially available computer.

In 1980, Berners-Lee was working as a software engineer at a physics laboratory in Switzerland, **where he worked with scientists from around the world**. He thought it was important for these scientists to continue sharing their knowledge once they returned home. He found a way to make this possible through the Web.

In 1990, Berners-Lee introduced the first Web page and the first browser.<sup>3</sup> With the Web he said, “any person could share information with anyone else, anywhere.” He made the Web available for free.

Many people confuse the Web with the Internet, **which was designed in the 1970s and was already being used to send information**. The Internet connects

computers with cables. The Web connects information with links. According to Berners-Lee, “The Web made the net useful because people are really interested in information (not to mention knowledge and wisdom!) and don't really want to have to know about computers and cables.”

As people started to discover how easy it was to find information through these links, the number of Internet users started to grow quickly. Soon businesses found ways of making money by using Web technology.

In 1999, Berners-Lee published a book called *Weaving the Web*, **in which he answers questions he is often asked**: “What were you thinking when you invented the Web?” “What do you think of it now?” “Where is the Web going to take us in the future?” A lot of people want to know if he's sorry that he made the Web free and didn't profit from it; his answer is no.

The Web has been such an important creation that some people compare Berners-Lee to Johann Gutenberg, **who made books possible by inventing moveable type in the fifteenth century**.

<sup>3</sup> *browser*: a computer program that provides access to websites on the Internet

**COMPREHENSION CHECK** Based on the reading, tell if the statement is true (T) or false (F).

1. Berners-Lee made a lot of money from creating the Web.
2. The Internet and the Web are the same.
3. Berners-Lee learned a lot about computers from his parents.

## 7.8 Nonessential Adjective Clauses

Examples	Explanation
Berners-Lee is not famous like Bill Gates, <b>who created Microsoft</b> . His parents, <b>whom he admired</b> , designed computers. The Internet, <b>which was designed in the 1970s</b> , connected computers. Berners-Lee worked in Switzerland, <b>where he shared ideas with other scientists</b> . In 1990, <b>when many people had never heard of the Internet</b> , Berners-Lee created the first Web page. Most people have heard of Steve Jobs, <b>whose name is easily associated with Apple computers</b> .	Some adjective clauses are not essential to the meaning of the sentence. A nonessential adjective clause adds extra information. The sentence is complete without it.  A nonessential adjective clause is separated by commas from the main part of the sentence. A nonessential adjective clause begins with <i>who</i> , <i>whom</i> , <i>which</i> , <i>where</i> , <i>when</i> , or <i>whose</i> . <i>That</i> is not used in a nonessential adjective clause.

**EXERCISE 14** Put commas in the following sentences to separate the nonessential adjective clause from the main clause.

1. The first modern computer, which was called ENIAC, took up a lot of space.
2. ENIAC was created in 1942 when the U.S. was involved in World War II.
3. Personal computers which were introduced in the 1970s were smaller and faster than previous computers.
4. Berners-Lee whose name is not widely recognized made a great contribution to the world.
5. Bill Gates went to Harvard University where he developed the programming language BASIC.
6. Bill Gates dropped out of Harvard to work with Paul Allen who was his old high school friend.
7. Bill Gates and his wife Melinda set up the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation which helps people in need all over the world.
8. Jeff Bezos got money from his parents who lent him \$300,000 to start Amazon.

## 7.9 Essential vs. Nonessential Adjective Clauses

Examples	Explanation
Berners-Lee, <b>whose parents helped design the first computer</b> , loved mathematics. Berners-Lee works at MIT, <b>where he is a professor of engineering</b> .	In these examples the adjective clause is nonessential because, without it, we can still identify the noun in the main clause. Try reading the sentences without the adjective clause. The sentences are complete. The adjective clause adds extra information to the sentence.
Smartphones changed the way <b>(that) people shop</b> . Jeff Bezos wanted a company name <b>that began with A</b> . People <b>who want quick information</b> can use the Web.	In these examples the adjective clause is essential, because, without it, we can't identify the noun. If we take the adjective clause out, the noun isn't properly identified and the idea isn't complete.
(a) Berners-Lee, <b>who invented the Web</b> , is very creative and intelligent. b) The computer, <b>which was invented in the 1940s</b> , has become part of our everyday lives. (c) The computer <b>that I bought two years ago</b> is slow compared to today's computers.	In example (a), Berners-Lee is unique and does not need to be identified. The clause is nonessential. Example (b) refers to the whole class of computers as an invention. The clause is nonessential. Example (c) refers to only one computer, which is identified by the adjective clause. The clause is essential.
The computer <b>(that) she just bought</b> has a lot of memory. The Web, <b>which Berners-Lee created</b> , is a useful tool.	In an essential adjective clause, the relative pronoun <i>that</i> can be used or omitted. In a nonessential adjective clause, the relative pronoun <i>that</i> cannot be used. The relative pronoun cannot be omitted.

### Language Notes:

Here are some questions to help you decide if the adjective clause needs commas. If the answer to any of these questions is *yes*, then the adjective clause is set off by commas.

- Can I put the adjective clause in parentheses?  
Google **(which is a popular search engine)** was created in 1998.
- Can I write the adjective clause as a separate sentence?  
Google is a popular search engine. **It was created in 1998.**
- If the adjective clause is deleted, does the sentence still make sense?  
Google is a popular search engine.
- Is the noun a unique person, place, or thing?  
**Berners-Lee**, who works at MIT, invented the Web.
- If the noun is plural, am I including all members of a group?  
Personal computers, **which became popular in the 1990s**, have changed the way we get information. (all personal computers)

**EXERCISE 15** Decide which of the following sentences contain a nonessential adjective clause. Put commas in those sentences. If the sentence doesn't need commas, write *NC*.

1. People who text use abbreviations. *NC*
2. My father, who texted me a few minutes ago, is sick.
3. Kids who spend a lot of time on the computer don't get much exercise.
4. The Freecycle Network™ which was created in 2003 helps keep things out of landfills.
5. People usually have a lot of things they don't need.
6. Berners-Lee whose parents were very educated loves learning new things.
7. At first Amazon was a company that only sold books.
8. Meg Whitman who ran eBay for ten years left the company in 2008.
9. Berners-Lee worked in Switzerland where a physics laboratory is located.
10. The Windows operating system which was developed by Microsoft came out in 1985.
11. Did you like the story that we read about Berners-Lee?
12. The computer that I bought three years ago doesn't have enough memory.
13. The Web which is one of the most important inventions of the twentieth century has changed the way people get information.
14. Bill Gates who created Microsoft with his friend became a billionaire.
15. Steve Jobs who died in 2011 helped create the Apple computer.
16. It's hard to remember a time when computers were not part of our everyday lives.
17. Do you remember the year when you bought your first computer?

**EXERCISE 16** Combine the two sentences into one. The sentence in parentheses ( ) is not essential to the main idea of the sentence. It adds extra information.

1. eBay is now a large corporation. (It was started in Pierre Omidyar's house.)  
eBay, which was started in Pierre Omidyar's house, is now a large corporation.
2. Tim Berners-Lee works at MIT. (He does research on artificial intelligence there.)  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Pierre Omidyar started eBay as a hobby. (His wife became part of the company.)  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. eBay hired Meg Whitman in 1998. (More expert business knowledge was needed at that time to run the company.)  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. In 2008, eBay hired John Donahoe. (He fired a lot of people.)  
\_\_\_\_\_

6. E-mail did not become popular until the 1990s. (It was first created in 1972.)

---

7. Pierre Omidyar had to charge money for each sale. (His idea started to become popular.)

---

8. Berners-Lee created the Web at a laboratory in Switzerland. (He was working there in the 1980s.)

---

9. Berners-Lee wrote a book called *Weaving the Web*. (He answers questions about his project in this book.)

---

## 7.10 Descriptive Phrases

Examples	Explanation
(a) There are millions of items <b>that are listed on eBay</b> . (b) There are millions of items <b>listed on eBay</b> .	Compare sentence (a) with an adjective clause to sentence (b) with a descriptive phrase. This descriptive phrase begins with a past participle.
(a) I sold some things <b>that were taking up space in my closet</b> . (b) I sold some things <b>taking up space in my closet</b> .	Compare sentence (a) with an adjective clause to sentence (b) with a descriptive phrase. This descriptive phrase begins with a present participle (verb <i>-ing</i> ).
(a) Pierre Omidyar, <b>who is the founder of eBay</b> , is one of the richest men in the world. (b) Pierre Omidyar, <b>the founder of eBay</b> , is one of the richest men in the world.	Compare sentence (a) with an adjective clause to sentence (b) with a descriptive phrase. This descriptive phrase is a noun (phrase). It gives a definition or more information about the preceding noun. This kind of descriptive phrase is called an appositive.
(a) Pierre Omidyar, <b>who is from France</b> , created eBay. (b) Pierre Omidyar, <b>from France</b> , created eBay.	Compare sentence (a) with an adjective clause to sentence (b) with a descriptive phrase. This descriptive phrase begins with a preposition ( <i>with, in, from, of, etc.</i> ).

### Language Notes:

1. We can only shorten an adjective clause to a descriptive phrase if the relative pronoun is followed by the verb *be*.  
I often use the computers ~~that are~~ in the library.
2. A descriptive phrase can be essential or nonessential. A nonessential phrase is set off by commas.  
I have two computers. The computer **in my bedroom** is newer. (Essential)  
The Amazon office, **in Seattle**, has over 100,000 employees. (Nonessential)
3. An appositive is always nonessential.  
Amazon, **an online store**, is a very popular website.

**EXERCISE 17** Shorten the adjective clause to a descriptive phrase by crossing out the unnecessary words.

1. On eBay, people ~~who are~~ living in California can easily sell to people ~~who are~~ living in New York.
2. Google, which is a popular search engine, is used by millions of people.
3. Bill Gates, who is the founder of Microsoft, has set up a foundation to help others.
4. eBay takes a percentage of each sale that is made on its website.
5. Tim Berners-Lee, who is from England, now works at MIT.
6. MIT, which is located in Massachusetts, is an excellent university.
7. Berners-Lee developed the idea for the Web when he was working at CERN, which is a physics lab in Switzerland.
8. Berners-Lee's parents worked on the first computer that was sold commercially.
9. People who are interested in reading newspapers from other cities can find them on the Web.
10. The World Wide Web, which is abbreviated WWW, was first introduced on the Internet in 1991.
11. The Internet, which was designed in the 1970s, didn't attract casual users until Berners-Lee created the Web.
12. Some wealthy people signed a Giving Pledge, which is a promise to give away most of their money in their lifetime.
13. Pierre Omidyar, who is a billionaire, signed the Giving Pledge.
14. Computers that are sold today have much more memory and speed than computers that were sold ten years ago.
15. Deron Beal, who is from Arizona, created The Freecycle Network™.

**EXERCISE 18** Combine the two sentences into one sentence. Use the second sentence as the adjective clause or descriptive phrase. (The second sentence adds nonessential information.)

1. Pierre Omidyar came to the U.S. when he was a child. His father was a professor.

Pierre Omidyar, whose father was a professor, came to the U.S. when he was a child.

2. Pierre Omidyar wrote his first computer program at age 14. He is from France.

---

3. He lived in California. He started his business there.

---

4. Pierre Omidyar saw a good use for computer technology. He started eBay as a hobby in his home.

---

5. *BusinessWeek* named Meg Whitman among the 25 most powerful business managers. *BusinessWeek* is a popular business magazine.

---

6. Meg Whitman resigned from eBay in 2008. She decided to go into politics at that time.

---

7. John Donahoe got the company out of decline. Pierre Omidyar hired him in 2008.

---

8. Bill Gates started Microsoft at the age of 19. He dropped out of Harvard during his second year.

---

9. Amazon began by selling books. It is now the largest online retailer.

---

10. Jeff Bezos's parents invested money in Amazon. They had never heard of the Internet.

---

11. Tim Berners-Lee is sometimes compared to Johann Gutenberg. Gutenberg made books possible in the fifteenth century.

---

12. Berners-Lee was interested in using the Internet to share information. His parents designed computers.

---

**EXERCISE 19** **About You** Fill in the blanks. Discuss your answers with a partner.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ is one thing I don't like about computers.

2. \_\_\_\_\_ is a website I recommend because \_\_\_\_\_.

3. \_\_\_\_\_, a website young people use a lot, is not so popular with older people.

4. In this lesson, I especially liked the story we read about \_\_\_\_\_ because \_\_\_\_\_.

5. The story we read about Tim Berners-Lee surprised me because \_\_\_\_\_.

# SUMMARY OF LESSON 7

	Essential Adjective Clauses	Nonessential Adjective Clauses
Pronoun as subject	People <b>who/that sell on eBay</b> have to pay a fee. Amazon is a website <b>that/which sells a lot of different things</b> .	Berners-Lee, <b>who created the Web</b> , didn't make money from it. Pierre Omidyar created eBay, <b>which helps people buy and sell items online</b> .
Pronoun as object	The people <b>(who/whom) Omidyar hired</b> helped him build his company. The first computer <b>(that/which) I bought</b> didn't have much memory.	Pierre Omidyar, <b>who(m) I admire</b> , believes in donating money to help others. I'm very happy with my present computer, <b>which</b> I bought online.
Pronoun as object of preposition	INFORMAL: The person <b>(who/that) I sold my computer to</b> paid me \$200. FORMAL: The person <b>to whom I sold my computer</b> paid me \$200.	INFORMAL: Berners-Lee, <b>who(m) we read about</b> , is very creative. FORMAL: Berners-Lee, <b>about whom we read</b> , is very creative.
Where	I want to go to a college <b>where I can study computer science</b> .	Berners-Lee worked in Switzerland, <b>where he met other scientists</b> .
When	My grandparents grew up at a time <b>when there were no personal computers</b> .	The Web was created in 1991, <b>when most people did not have personal computers</b> .
Whose + noun as subject	Freecycle is a community <b>whose members help each other</b> .	Berners-Lee, <b>whose parents worked on computers</b> , learned a lot about technology when he was young.
Whose + noun as object	I sent a thank-you e-mail to the person <b>whose radio I received through Freecycle</b> .	Meg Whitman, <b>whose business expertise Omidyar needed</b> , started to work at eBay in 1998.
Adjective clause after indefinite compound	I don't know anyone <b>who doesn't have a cell phone</b> . Everything <b>(that/which) I've learned about the Internet</b> is fascinating.	
Descriptive phrase	Computers <b>made in the 1980s</b> had a very small memory.	Bill Gates, <b>the founder of Microsoft</b> , never finished college.

# TEST/REVIEW

**PART 1** Circle the correct words to complete the sentences. Ø means no word is necessary. In some cases, more than one answer is possible. If so, circle all possible answers.

1. What is a computer virus? A virus is a computer code (that/who/whose/which) attaches itself to other programs and causes harm to programs, data, or hardware.
2. Who is Deron Beal? Deron Beal is the man (*who/whom/which/that*) created the Freecycle Network.
3. Tim Berners-Lee was born at a time (*when/that/which/Ø*) personal computers were not even in people's imaginations.
4. Tim Berners-Lee is a name (*which/with which/that/Ø*) people are not familiar.
5. Omidyar needed to bring in someone (*who/whose/that/which*) knowledge of business was greater than his own.
6. The Web is a tool (*Ø/that/about which/which*) most of us use every day.
7. The Web, (*which/that/about which/about that*) we read on page 199, is not the same as the Internet.
8. What is eBay? eBay is a website (*that/where/whom/which*) you can buy and sell items.
9. The people (*Ø/which/whose/where*) I've met in online recycling sites have been very helpful.
10. Do you save all the e-mails (*that/where/whose/Ø*) your friends have sent to you?
11. The computer lab is never open at a time (*which/where/when/during which*) I need it.
12. I always delete the spam (*what/that/when/whose*) I receive.
13. You can create an address book (*when/that/where/in which*) you can keep the e-mail addresses of your contacts.
14. Do you know anyone (*Ø/who/whom/which*) doesn't own a computer?
15. The person (*who/that/whose/Ø*) computer I bought wanted a much more powerful computer.
16. Don't believe everything (*that/who/whom/Ø*) you read on the Internet.

**PART 2** Some of the following sentences need commas. If they do, put them in. If the sentence doesn't need commas, write *NC* (no commas).

1. John Donahoe, who replaced Meg Whitman, saved eBay from decline.
2. In 2008 when John Donahoe came to work at eBay many top employees were fired.
3. Many online businesses that do well in the beginning later fail.
4. Amazon an online retailer was created by Jeff Bezos.
5. At first Amazon was a place where you could buy only books.
6. Now Amazon is a retailer that sells almost anything.
7. I can't remember a time when there were no smartphones.
8. Berners-Lee is a name that most people don't recognize.
9. Everything that we read in this lesson is related to the Internet.
10. Many people confuse the Web with the Internet which was created in the 1970s.
11. There are many websites where you can get travel information.

# WRITING

## PART 1 Editing Advice

1. Never use *what* as a relative pronoun.

I bought a used computer from a person <sup>who</sup> ~~what~~ lives in another state.  
Everything <sup>that or Ø</sup> ~~what~~ we learned about the Internet is interesting.

2. You can't omit a relative pronoun that is the subject of the adjective clause.

I have a cousin <sup>who</sup> ~~∅~~ doesn't have a computer.

3. If the relative pronoun is the object of the adjective clause, don't put an object after the verb.

The software that I bought ~~it~~ online was very useful.

4. Make sure you use subject-verb agreement in the adjective clause.

I have a friend who use <sup>s</sup> ~~s~~ e-mail a lot.

5. Put a noun before an adjective clause.

<sup>A person who</sup> ~~Who~~ doesn't know how to use a computer in today's world is lost.

6. Don't confuse *whose* with *who's*.

The person <sup>whose</sup> ~~who's~~ computer I bought didn't charge for shipping.

7. Put the subject before the verb in an adjective clause.

The computer that <sup>my grandfather uses</sup> ~~uses my grandfather~~ is very old.

8. Use *whose*, not *his*, *her*, or *their* to show possession in an adjective clause.

I have a friend <sup>whose</sup> ~~who his~~ knowledge of programming is very advanced.

## PART 2 Editing Practice

Some of the shaded words and phrases have mistakes. Find the mistakes and correct them. If the shaded words are correct, write C.

Last semester I took a photo editing class <sup>C</sup> ~~that~~ <sub>1.</sub> has helped me a lot. The teacher <sup>who</sup> ~~what~~ <sub>2.</sub> taught the class is an expert in photo editing. This teacher, <sup>whose name</sup> ~~who's name~~ <sub>3.</sub> is Mark Ryan, is patient, helpful, and fun. A lot of the photos I ~~took~~ <sub>4.</sub> were too dark. I learned how to lighten the ~~parts needed~~ <sub>5.</sub> lightening without lightening the whole photo. I also learned to cut out parts ~~I don't want them~~ <sub>6.</sub>. For example, I have a family picture, but it has one person <sup>who's</sup> ~~who~~ <sub>7.</sub> not in the family. It's a woman <sup>who live</sup> ~~who~~ <sub>8.</sub> next door to us. She came right at the time when ~~was taking the picture my friend~~ <sub>9.</sub> and she wanted to be in it.

It's a great photo, except for her. I tried scanning it and editing it at home, but I didn't do a good job.

My teacher, <sup>10.</sup> who his scanner is much better than mine, scanned the photo and showed me how to cut the neighbor out. I learned many things in this class. Everything <sup>11.</sup> what I learned is very helpful.

I started to take another photo class this semester. The teacher <sup>12.</sup> who's class I'm taking now is not as good as last semester's teacher. <sup>13.</sup> Who wants to learn a lot about photo editing should take Mark Ryan's class.

### **PART 3 Write About It**

1. Write about the ways computers and the Internet have made life simpler.
2. Write about two websites or apps that you like. Explain how they are helpful or enjoyable for you.

### **PART 4 Edit Your Writing**

Reread the Summary of Lesson 7 and the editing advice. Edit your writing from Part 3.