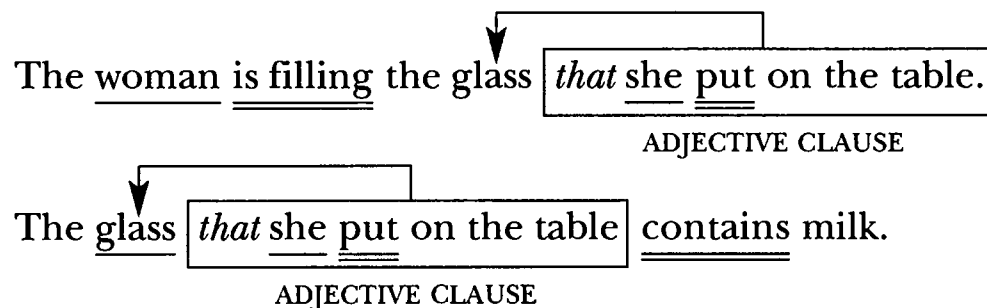


- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. The voters should elect whichever of the candidates seems best to them.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. It was difficult to distinguish between what was on sale and what was merely on display.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. You should buy whatever the cheapest and most durable.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. What was written in the letter angered him beyond belief.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. You can spend your time with whoever important to you.

## SKILL 11: USE ADJECTIVE CLAUSE CONNECTORS CORRECTLY

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



In the first example there are two clauses: *woman* is the subject of the verb *is filling*, and *she* is the subject of the verb *put*. *That* is the adjective clause connector that joins these two clauses, and the adjective clause *that she put on the table* describes the noun *glass*.

In the second example there are also two clauses: *glass* is the subject of the verb *contains*, and *she* is the subject of the verb *put*. In this sentence also, *that* is the adjective clause connector that joins these two clauses, and the adjective clause *that she put on the table* describes the noun *glass*.

The following example shows how these sentence patterns could be tested in structure questions on the TOEFL test.

### Example from the Paper and Computer TOEFL® Tests



The gift \_\_\_\_\_ selected for the bride was rather expensive.

- (A) because
- (B) was
- (C) since
- (D) which we

In this example you should notice quickly that there are two clauses: *gift* is the subject of the verb *was*, and the verb *selected* 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 *selected* 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 gift which we selected for the bride was rather expensive*. In this sentence *gift* is the subject of the verb *was*, *we* is the subject of the verb *selected*, and the connector *which* joins these two clauses.

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

ADJECTIVE CLAUSE CONNECTORS			
<i>whom</i> (for people)	<i>which</i> (for things)	<i>that</i> (for people or things)	
S V	adjective connector	S	V
<i>I liked the book</i>	<i>which</i>	<i>you recommended.</i>	
S	adjective connector	S V	V
<i>The book</i>	<i>which</i>	<i>you recommended</i>	<i>was interesting.</i>
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 structure questions on the TOEFL test.			

**EXERCISE 11:** Each of the following sentences contains more than one clause. Underline the subjects once and the verbs twice. Circle the connectors. Put boxes around the adjective clauses. Then indicate if the sentences are correct (C) or incorrect (I).

- C 1. It is important to fill out the form in the way that you have been instructed.
- I 2. The car which I have been driving for five years for sale at a really good price.
- \_\_\_ 3. I just finished reading the novel whom the professor suggested for my book report.
- \_\_\_ 4. The plane that he was scheduled to take to Hawaii was delayed.
- \_\_\_ 5. The movie which we watched on cable last night it was really frightening.
- \_\_\_ 6. I made an appointment with the doctor whom you recommended.
- \_\_\_ 7. The enthusiasm with which he greeted me made me feel welcome.
- \_\_\_ 8. The story that you told me about Bob.
- \_\_\_ 9. The men with whom were having the discussion did not seem very friendly.
- \_\_\_ 10. I'm not really sure about taking part in the plans that we made last night.

## SKILL 12: USE ADJECTIVE CLAUSE CONNECTOR/SUBJECTS CORRECTLY

In Skill 11 we saw that adjective clause connectors were used to introduce clauses that describe nouns. In Skill 12 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.