

SENTENCES WITH REDUCED CLAUSES

It is possible in English for a clause to appear in a complete form or in a reduced form.

My friend should be on the train ~~which is~~ *arriving at the station now*.

~~Although it was not really difficult~~, the exam took a lot of time.

The first sentence shows an adjective clause in its complete form, *which is arriving at the station now*, and in its reduced form, *arriving at the station now*. The second sentence shows an adverb clause in its complete form, *although it was not really difficult*, and its reduced form, *although not really difficult*.

The two types of clauses that can reduce in English are: (1) adjective clauses and (2) adverb clauses. It is important to become familiar with these reduced clauses because they appear frequently on the TOEFL test.

SKILL 13: USE REDUCED ADJECTIVE CLAUSES CORRECTLY

Adjective clauses can appear in a reduced form. In the reduced form, the adjective clause connector and the *be*-verb that directly follow it are omitted.

The woman ~~who is~~ *waving to us* is the tour guide.

The letter ~~which was~~ *written last week* arrived today.

The pitcher ~~that is~~ *on the table* is full of iced tea.

Each of these sentences may be used in the complete form or in the reduced form. In the reduced form the connector *who*, *which*, or *that* is omitted along with the *be*-verb *is* or *was*.

If there is no *be*-verb in the adjective clause, it is still possible to have a reduced form. When there is no *be*-verb in the adjective clause, the connector is omitted and the verb is changed into the *-ing* form.

I don't understand the article ~~which appears~~ ^{*appearing*} *in today's paper*.

In this example there is no *be*-verb in the adjective clause *which appears in today's paper*, so the connector *which* is omitted and the main verb *appears* is changed to the *-ing* form *appearing*.

It should be noted that not all adjective clauses can appear in a reduced form. An adjective clause can appear in a reduced form only if the adjective clause connector is followed directly by a verb. In other words, an adjective clause can only be reduced if the connector is also a subject.

The woman *that I just met* is the tour guide. (does not reduce)

The letter *which you sent me* arrived yesterday. (does not reduce)

In these two examples the adjective clauses cannot be reduced because the adjective clause connectors *that* and *which* are not directly followed by verbs; *that* is directly followed by the subject *I*, and *which* is directly followed by the subject *you*.

A final point to note is that some adjective clauses are set off from the rest of the sentence with commas, and these adjective clauses can also be reduced. In addition, when an adjective clause is set off with commas, the reduced adjective clause can appear at the front of the sentence.

The White House, *which is located in Washington*, is the home of the president.

The White House, *located in Washington*, is the home of the president.

Located in Washington, the White House is the home of the president.

The president, *who is now preparing to give a speech*, is meeting with his advisors.

The president, *now preparing to give a speech*, is meeting with his advisors.

Now preparing to give a speech, the president is meeting with his advisors.

In these two examples, the adjective clauses are set off from the rest of the sentence with commas, so each sentence can be structured in three different ways: (1) with the complete clause, (2) with the reduced clause following the noun that it describes, and (3) with the reduced clause at the beginning of the sentence.

The following example shows how reduced adjective clauses could be tested in structure questions on the TOEFL test.

Example from the Paper and Computer TOEFL® Tests



_____ on several different television programs, the witness gave conflicting accounts of what had happened.

- (A) He appeared
- (B) Who appeared
- (C) Appearing
- (D) Appears

In this example, answer (A) is incorrect because there are two clauses, *He appeared...* and *the witness gave...*, and there is no connector to join them. Answer (B) is incorrect because an adjective clause such as *who appeared...* cannot appear at the beginning of a sentence (unless it is in a reduced form). Answer (C) is the correct answer because it is the reduced form of the clause *who appeared*, and this reduced form can appear at the front of the sentence. Answer (D) is not the reduced form of a verb; it is merely a verb in the present tense; a verb such as *appears* needs a subject and a connector to be correct.

The following chart lists the structure for reduced adjective clauses and rules for how and when reduced forms can be used:

REDUCED ADJECTIVE CLAUSES	
with a <i>be</i> -verb in the adjective clause	(ADJECTIVE CONNECTOR/SUBJECT) (who which that)
with no <i>be</i> -verb in the adjective clause	(ADJECTIVE CONNECTOR/SUBJECT) (who which that)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To reduce an adjective clause, omit the adjective clause connector/subject and the <i>be</i>-verb. • If there is no <i>be</i>-verb, omit the connector/subject and change the main verb to the <i>-ing</i> form. • Only reduce an adjective clause if the connector/subject is directly followed by the verb. • If an adjective clause is set off with commas, the reduced clause can be moved to the front of the sentence. 	

EXERCISE 13: Each of the following sentences contains an adjective clause, in a complete or reduced form. Underline the adjective clauses. Then indicate if the sentences are correct (C) or incorrect (I).

- C 1. We will have to return the merchandise purchased yesterday at the Broadway.
- I 2. The children sat in the fancy restaurant found it difficult to behave.
- ___ 3. Serving a term of four years, the mayor of the town will face reelection next year.
- ___ 4. The brand new Cadillac, purchasing less than two weeks ago, was destroyed in the accident.
- ___ 5. The fans who supporting their team always come out to the games in large numbers.
- ___ 6. The suspect can be seen in the photographs were just released by the police.
- ___ 7. The food placing on the picnic table attracted a large number of flies.
- ___ 8. Impressed with everything she had heard about the course, Marie signed her children up for it.
- ___ 9. The passengers in the airport waiting room, heard the announcement of the canceled flight, groaned audibly.
- ___ 10. Dissatisfied with the service at the restaurant, the meal really was not enjoyable.