

Grammar of adjective clauses - Introduction

Independent clauses -- Independent clauses are complete sentences. An independent clause has one **subject** phrase and one **verb** phrase.

Examples of independent clauses:

- **We do not like** some foods.
- In India, **farmers cannot plow** their fields.

Dependent clauses -- Dependent clauses are not complete sentences; to be complete, a dependent clause needs an independent clause. Examples of dependent clauses:

- *that* are from other cultures
- *who* kill their cows for meat

Dependent adjective clauses describe nouns. Dependent adjective clauses usually start with: *who*, *that*, and *which*.

Here is a complete sentence with an independent and a dependent clause:

- **We do not like some foods** *that are from other cultures*.
 - What noun does *that* describe?
 - foods

Here is another complete sentence with an independent and a dependent clause:

- **In India, farmers** *who kill their cows for meat* **cannot plow their fields**.
 - What noun does the adjective clause describe?
 - farmers

Read these sentences carefully.

We do not like some foods that are from other cultures.

- What foods don't we like?

In India, farmers who kill their cows for meat cannot plow their fields.

- Who cannot plow their fields?
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PRACTICE:

Example: We may laugh at clothing that seems ridiculous to us.

1. Which clause is the independent clause?
2. Which clause is the dependent adjective clause?
3. What kind of clothing may we laugh at?