

Lesson 24: Describer clauses

As you recall, there are three kinds of clauses: **shifter clauses**, **describer clauses**, and **completer clauses**.

In the last lesson, we looked closely at **shifter clauses** and other shifters. In this lesson, we will turn our attention to the **describer clause**, and in the next, we will study **completer clauses**.

Here are the clause words which introduce describer clauses.

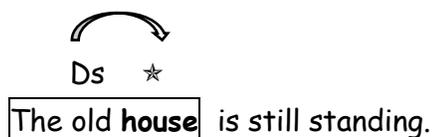
*Clause words used with Describer Clauses			
PEOPLE	LOCATION	THINGS	POSSESSION
who	where	which	whose
whom		that	
that			

*These words may also be used in other ways. They are clause words only when they begin a clause.

Describers vs. Describer Clauses

We have been working with **describers** for a long time. Our describers have been single words, and they come *before* the thing they describe.

In this example, *old* tells us more about the house.



A **describer clause** is a *whole clause* that describes a word in the trunk.
 Describer clauses come right *after* the thing they describe.

In this example *old* and *where I was born* both tell us more about the house.



A **describer clause** comes right **after** the word that it describes.

Where do Describer Clauses go in the sentence?

A **describer clause** can go inside the trunk or at the end of it. It often describes the main word of the subject or the main word of the predicate.

Let's look first at describer clauses that go inside the trunk. Here are some examples.

↶ -CW -----
 The woman [who is sitting in the living room] is my wife.

↶ -CW-----
 The movie [that we saw last night] was really good.

↶ CW
 The man [whose car is parked by the fire hydrant] got a ticket.

Did you notice that the **describer clause** comes right after the word that it describes? In these sentences we get more information about *woman*, *movie*, and *man*. The **trunk** "opens up" to let the **describer clause** fit in.

Describer clauses can also go at the end of the trunk if the word they are describing is in the predicate and not the subject. Look at these examples:

X ↶ CW
 This is the girl [that I met at the party last night].

X ↖ CW VxD
 Here is the hotel [where we spent our honeymoon].

VxD ↖ CW VxD
 I returned the dress [that you gave me for Christmas].

Where is the clause word?

“that” is often omitted (left out) in speaking and casual writing. This is acceptable if the CW is not also the subject. Just remember that there is a trunk-clause relationship. It is not two trunks combined without punctuation.

This is the girl ~~that~~ I met at the party.

Not 2 trunks—a trunk and a clause→This is the girl I met at the party.

Lesson 24 Exercise 1

In the following sentences,

1. draw a box around the main subject
2. mark the clause word with **CW** and mark the clause with brackets [].
3. Box the noun box that the clause describes.
4. Finally draw a little **arrow** from the CW to the noun box that the clause is describing.

↖ CW

Example: The jacket [that I bought last year] is too small.

1. Last night, somebody robbed the 7-Eleven where my friend works.
2. For her birthday, Gina’s friends took her to that restaurant where the servers all sing opera.
3. The couple whose daughter flunked out of college was really upset.
4. I will have the money that I owe you tomorrow.
5. Theresa is the woman that he will probably marry.



- 6. Our techie is trying to fix the printer that isn't working.
- 7. The teacher was annoyed with the girl whose phone rang in class.

Lesson 24 Exercise 2

Write 5 sentences with describer clauses. Put some at the end and some next to a word in the subject. Use a variety of clause words.

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____
- 4. _____
- 5. _____