

PART 1

Review of Modifiers and Introduction to Adjective Clauses

Setting the Context

Prereading Questions This chapter talks about five of the major world religions. It begins with Hinduism, the oldest of the five. What do you know about Hinduism? Is it practiced in your area or country?

Hinduism

The religious tradition that we call *Hinduism* is the product of 5000 years of development. The name, however, dates only from about c.E. 1200, the time when the invading Muslims wished to distinguish the faith of the people of India from their own.

Hindu is the Persian word for *Indian*. Hindus themselves, however, call their religious tradition the eternal teaching or law (*sanatana dharma*). 5

Hinduism has no founder and no prophet.* It has no specific church structure, nor does it have a set system of beliefs defined by one authority. The emphasis is on a way of living rather than on a way of thought. Radhakrishnan, a former president of India, once remarked: "Hinduism is more culture than a creed." 10

Discussing Ideas. Where did the name *Hindu* come from? Who founded Hinduism? Does Hinduism have a strictly organized system of beliefs? Do you think Hinduism is somewhat different from other religions in these regards? Do you know of any Hindu customs or Hindu beliefs?

A. Review of Modifiers

Remember that English has fairly strict rules for the word order of modifiers in a sentence. To review the order of modifiers, see Chapter 1, pages 9–15.

- 1 Look at the italicized modifiers in the following sentences and indicate which word(s) each modifies. Try to identify the modifiers (adjective, adverb, article, and so on).

Example: *The majority of Hindus believe in karma.*

Diagram showing modifier identification for the example sentence: "The majority of Hindus believe in karma." Arrows point from labels above to the words they modify: "article" points to "The", "preposition" points to "of", "noun" points to "Hindus", "preposition" points to "in", and "noun" points to "karma".

1. An *important* concept *of Hinduism* is karma, *which means "action" or "work."*
2. Because *most* Hindus believe *in reincarnation*, karma *also* means the consequences *of actions from one life to the next.*
3. To *some* social scientists, karma is *heredity*, or genetic inheritance, and dharma is *free will*, the ability to make choices.
4. Reincarnation *an* individual has lived *many* lives and will live many more until *the final* liberation.

**prophet* a person who claims to speak for God

5. Because of karma and reincarnation, respect *for life, customs, and laws* is very important to Hindus.
6. *Some* Hindus believe that being a vegetarian is *the best way* to show respect *for life*.



The Ganges River

- 2** Quickly reread the passage “Hinduism” on page 302. Then do the following:
1. Read the first sentence of the passage. Name the subject, verb, and complement in the main clause. Name the subject, verb, and connecting word in the dependent clause.
 2. In the same sentence, name the parts of speech of the following:
 - a. *religious*
 - b. *Hinduism*
 - c. *the*
 - d. *of*
 - e. *development*

B. Introduction to Adjective Clauses

An adjective clause is a dependent (relative) clause that modifies a noun or pronoun. An adjective clause usually comes immediately after the word(s) it modifies. In some cases, a pronoun or prepositional phrase may come between the (pro)noun and the clause. English has several different types of adjective clause constructions. You will study each one in detail in later sections.

	Examples
Subject Clauses: that, which, and who	Hinduism is a religion that did not have one founder.
Object Clauses: that, which, and who(m)	The man whom I met yesterday is a Hindu. The man to whom I was introduced is a Hindu.
Possessive Clauses: whose	Hinduism is a religion whose beliefs form a major part of Hindu culture.
Time and Place Clauses: when and where	India is a country in Asia where a majority of the population is Hindu.

- 3 Each of the following sentences has an adjective clause. Underline the dependent clauses and circle the word(s) they modify.

Example: The Ganges is a river that flows through northern India.

1. It is a river whose water is sacred to Hindus.
2. Hindus from all over the world travel to the Ganges, which is the symbol of life without end.
3. Every day, the Ganges is filled with hundreds of thousands of people who come to drink or bathe in the sacred water.
4. Millions of people come for the great Kumbh Mela Festival, which is held once every twelve years.
5. This festival takes place at Allahbad, where the Ganges and the Jumna rivers join.
6. The Kumbh Mela Festival is a special time when all Hindus hope to bathe in the sacred waters of the Ganges.
7. A very important festival is the Kumbh Mela Festival, during which millions of people drink or bathe in the sacred river.
8. Varanasi, which is another city on the Ganges, is the most sacred for Hindus.
9. Varanasi is the city that Hindus believe to be the most sacred.
10. All Hindus hope to die at Varanasi, where the sacred water gives eternal life.
11. A hope that all Hindus have is to die at Varanasi.
12. The sacred ashes of those who have died at Varanasi are thrown on the river, and their lives will continue forever.



- 4 Work with a partner. Reread the sentences in Activity 3. Decide whether the noun or pronoun is modified by an adjective clause that is a subject clause, an object clause, a possessive clause, or a time and place clause. Use the chart on page 303 as a guide.

Example: The Ganges is a river that flows through northern India. *subject clause*

- 5 Reread the sentences in Activity 3 one more time. On a separate piece of paper, try to rewrite each sentence as a simple sentence, but try to include all the important information, information which might be expressed in the adjective clause.

Example: It is a river whose water is sacred to Hindus.

The water of the Ganges River is sacred to Hindus.

Using What You've Learned



- 6 The word *holiday* originally was "holy day," and it had a strictly religious meaning. Today, we use *holiday* to mean any vacation day. Just as religions celebrate special holidays, so do cities, states, countries, and cultures.

Get into four groups. Each group will take a season (spring, summer, winter, or fall). In your group, make a list of holidays you know that are celebrated during that season. Include a brief description of how and where they are celebrated. After you have finished, share your information with the rest of the class. Later, you will be asked to give a brief presentation about one holiday.