

PART 3

Restrictive and Nonrestrictive Clauses; Clauses with *Who*, *Which*, and *Whose*; Replacement of Subjects and Possessives

Setting the Context

Prereading Questions The following passage tells about the third major world religion, Judaism. What do you know about Judaism? Are you familiar with any of its customs, traditions, or teachings?



Judaism

Judaism, which is the parent of both Christianity and Islam, is the oldest of the world's three great monotheistic* religions. The core of Judaism is the belief in only one God who is the creator and ruler of the whole world. He is transcendent† and eternal.‡

We can trace the origin of Judaism to the time of Abraham. According to Jewish tradition, Abraham made an agreement with God that he and his family would teach the doctrine of only one God. In return, God promised Abraham the land of Canaan for his descendants.

Judaism is based on two fundamental texts: the Old Testament of the Bible (the Torah) and the Talmud, which is a collection of poetry, anecdotes, laws, traditions, biographies, and prophecies of the ancient Jews. All of Judaism's teachings, laws, and customs are also called the *Torah*, which means "to teach."

**monotheistic* believing in one God

†*transcendent* going beyond the limits of time and space

‡*eternal* forever

Discussing Ideas. About one-half of the world's religions are monotheistic (believing in one God), while the others are polytheistic. In your opinion, is this a major difference in beliefs? Is this more important than any similarities among religions?

A. Restrictive and Nonrestrictive Clauses

Restrictive clauses identify the nouns they describe. Restrictive clauses give *essential* information about these nouns. *No* commas are used with restrictive clauses.

Nonrestrictive clauses do *not* define or identify the nouns they describe. Nonrestrictive clauses give *extra* information: the identity of the noun is already known. A comma is used at the beginning and at the end of a nonrestrictive clause. *That* may not be used with nonrestrictive clauses (with commas).

	Examples	Notes
Restrictive	I met a professor who teaches a religious studies course at the college.	Restrictive clauses explain which people, places, things, or ideas are being described in the sentence.
Nonrestrictive	I met Dr. Chang, who teaches a religious studies course at the college.	Nonrestrictive clauses add information. They do <i>not</i> explain which people (places, and so on). Clauses that modify proper names, entire groups, or nouns that are unique (the sun, and so on) are normally nonrestrictive.

In some cases, the same clause may either identify or give extra information, depending on the situation. Compare the following examples.

	Examples	Notes
Restrictive	My brother who lives in Iowa is a teacher. (I have several brothers; the brother in Iowa is a teacher.)	This clause tells <i>which</i> brother. No commas are used.
Nonrestrictive	My brother, who lives in Iowa , is a teacher. (I have only one brother, or I'm talking about one brother now. By the way, he lives in Iowa.)	This clause gives extra information. Commas are used.

Note: In spoken English, speakers often pause before and after a nonrestrictive clause. This tells you that the information is extra. Thus, pauses are likely in the second sentence but not in the first.

1 As your teacher reads the following sentences aloud, underline the adjective clause in each. Then decide whether the information is *essential* (telling *which* person, thing, and so on) or *extra*. Add commas if the information is extra.

Example: People who believe in Judaism are called Jews.
essential information; no commas

1. Steve Wise who comes from Maryland is Jewish.
2. Steve's brother who lives in Chicago is a rabbi. (Steve has only one brother.)
3. Joan's brother who lives in Chicago is a rabbi. (Joan has several brothers.)
4. Judaism is based on the Talmud and the Old Testament which is also part of the Christian Bible.
5. The Bible which has two parts is the basis for both Judaism and Christianity.
6. A synagogue is a place where Jews worship and study.
7. The Touro Synagogue which is in Rhode Island is the oldest in the United States.
8. The synagogue which is in Rhode Island is the oldest in the United States.
9. The Talmud which is part of Judaism's holy texts is not part of Christianity's holy texts.
10. The Sabbath which is the weekly holy day for Jews falls on Saturday.

B. Clauses with Who or Which: Replacement of Subjects

To form an adjective clause, the relative pronoun *who* or *which* can replace the subject of a simple sentence. *Who* refers to people only. It may be used in both restrictive and nonrestrictive clauses. *Which* refers to things or ideas. In nonrestrictive clauses (with commas), *which* (not *that*) must be used. In restrictive clauses (without commas), either *which* or *that* may be used, but *that* is preferred.

	Examples
Simple Sentences	We spoke with Dr. Chang. Dr. Chang is an exchange scholar.
Complex Sentence	We spoke with Dr. Chang, who is an exchange scholar.
Simple Sentences	Dr. Chang will lecture on Judaism. Judaism is his specialty.
Complex Sentence	Dr. Chang will lecture on Judaism, which is his specialty.
Simple Sentences	Dr. Chang will lecture on a topic. This topic is very interesting.
Complex Sentence	Dr. Chang will lecture on a topic that (which) is very interesting.

2 Use *who* or *which* to form an adjective clause from the second sentence in each pair. Combine the sentences, omitting words and adding commas when necessary.

Example: Yesterday I met Mr. Preston. Mr. Preston is a world-famous scholar.
Yesterday I met Mr. Preston, who is a world-famous scholar.



Archeological dig in Israel.

1. Mr. Preston will give a talk about archeology. Archeology is the study of past human life and activities.
2. Mr. Preston will speak about various ruins in the Middle East. Mr. Preston has spent many years doing archeology.
3. The Middle East includes countries in Southwest Asia and North Africa. The Middle East is also called the Mideast.
4. The Middle Eastern countries are Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, and Yemen. These Middle Eastern countries are on the Red Sea.
5. The Red Sea borders the Sinai. The Sinai is a vast desert of plains, mountains, and white sandy beaches.
6. Mr. Preston used to live in Jerusalem. Jerusalem is a very important center for Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.
7. Mr. Preston told me about several archeologists. These archeologists are doing interesting work in Jerusalem.
8. Mr. Preston conducts archaeological digs. Archaeological digs uncover artifacts from past civilizations.
9. Jerusalem has many important archaeological sites. Jerusalem is an ancient city.
10. The City of David is visited by thousands of tourists each year. The City of David is a very large and ancient ruin in Jerusalem.

- 3 Use *who* or *which* to form an adjective clause from the second sentence in each pair. Combine the sentences, omitting words and adding commas when necessary.

Example: Many religions have spring festivals like Passover.
Passover marks the end of winter.

Many religions have spring festivals like Passover, which marks the end of winter.

1. Passover commemorates the Jews.
These Jews made the Exodus from Egypt.
2. Rosh Hashanah celebrates the "birthday of the world."
Rosh Hashanah is the Jewish New Year's festival in the fall.
3. The Shofar is a trumpet.
This trumpet is blown at Rosh Hashanah.
4. The ten days are a time for confessing sins and asking forgiveness.
These ten days follow Rosh Hashanah.
5. This period ends with Yom Kippur.
Yom Kippur is the "Day of Atonement."
6. On Yom Kippur, the synagogues are filled with people.
These people are praying and asking forgiveness for their sins.
7. At Passover Jews prepare a special meal.
This meal is called a seder.
8. Jews follow ancient traditions.
These ancient traditions have their roots in the Bible and the Talmud.