

Reduced Adjective Clauses

Omitting “which is,” “that is,” and “who is”

In some cases, it is possible to omit “which is,” “that is,” and “who is” (or “which are,” “that are,” and “who are”).

Examples:

- 1) I read a book ~~that is~~ about life in 19th century London during my trip to England.

I read a book about life in 19th century London during my trip to England.

- 2) Amnesia, ~~which is~~ also called amnesic syndrome, refers to the loss of memories, including facts, information, and experiences.

Amnesia, also called amnesic syndrome, refers to the loss of memories, including facts, information, and experiences.

When can “which is” and “which are” be omitted?

- 1) the adjective clause contains **a passive verb**

*Generalized anxiety disorder, ~~which is also called~~ **GAD**, is characterized by excessive anxiety and worry about everyday events with no obvious reasons for worry.*

- 2) the adjective clause contains **a general class**

*One-third of the world’s population has tuberculosis, ~~which is an~~ **infectious disease** that primarily affects the lungs.*

*CT scanning, ~~which is a~~ **common imaging procedure**, exposes a person to 100 times more radiation than a chest x-ray.*

When can “that is” and “that are” be omitted?

- 1) the adjective clause contains **a passive verb**

*Leprosy is an infectious disease ~~that is~~ **characterized** by skin sores and nerve damage.*

- 2) the adjective clause contains a **prepositional phrase** (begins with *in, on, over, about, etc.*)

The equipment ~~that is in~~ the catheterization laboratory is brand new.

Consider removing “which is” and “that is” when ...

- 1) the sentence is too long
- 2) the sentence or the paragraph contains too many adjective clauses, as in the following example:

*Iron, **which is an element that is in green leafy vegetables**, is a key component of a large molecule **that is called hemoglobin**, which transports oxygen in the blood.*

Iron, ~~which is~~ an element ~~that is~~ in green leafy vegetables, is a key component of a large molecule ~~that is~~ called hemoglobin, which transports oxygen in the blood.

*Iron, **an element in green leafy vegetables**, is a key component of a large molecule **called hemoglobin**, which transports oxygen in the blood.*

I.

Directions: Rewrite each sentence by reducing the adjective clause and give the reason (general class / passive voice / preposition).

- 1) Fundoplication, which is a surgical procedure that is performed to treat heartburn, involves wrapping the stomach around the esophagus.

- 2) Dengue is a tropical disease that is caused by a virus that is carried by mosquitoes.

- 3) Narcissism, which is a personality disorder that is characterized by a constant need for attention or praise, is more common in men than in women.

- 4) Tears are the salty, watery secretion that is produced by the glands that are in the upper part of the eye socket, which are called the lacrimal glands.

II.

Directions: Combine the following groups of sentences, using reduced adjective clauses.

- 1) A volcanic rock can float in water. The volcanic rock is known as pumice.

- 2) The human brain is protected by the cranium. The cranium is a hard structure. The hard structure is made up of 22 bones. The 22 bones are joined together.

- 3) The clinic offers a special 3-week program. The special 3-week program is for people who want to lose weight.

- 4) The patient could not speak because he suffered damage to his Broca's area. Broca's area is a region in the brain. The region in the brain is associated with the control of speech.

- 5) Jane Goodall discovered that chimpanzees have the mental capacity to make tools. Jane Goodall is a famous anthropologist and animal rights activist.
