

GRAMMAR TIP #3

COMMAS WITH ADJECTIVE CLAUSES



The use of a comma in adjective clauses depends on *how essential* the information in the clause is.

Essential information:

The proposal that we read in class is a good example to follow.

- The clause includes essential information. Which proposal? The one we read in class. → **Do not use the comma.**

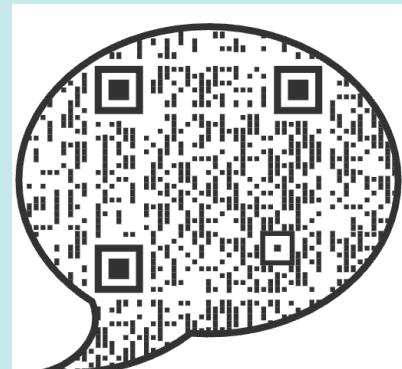
Non-essential information:

My plan of study, which my advisor just approved, is now being reviewed by the graduate college.

- The clause includes extra detail. The fact it was just approved is not essential. → **Use the comma**

See Grammar Tip # 4
to review adjective clauses.

Note: You can use a comma before “which, who, whom, where, and why,” but cannot use it before “that.”



**GOT
QUESTIONS?**

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