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Grammar Reference

1. Grammar Reference (Please remember that this grammar reference section is not a lesson plan for teachers. In fact, it is and should be designed in such a way that students can comprehend the grammar points on their own.)

Defining and non-defining relative clauses

A defining relative clause defines or gives essential information about a noun.

Example:

This area has dozens of shops **that sell the latest fashions.**

Summer and winter are the seasons **when most people come to visit.**

Form:

... + noun + defining relative clause

A non-defining relative clause gives optional information about a noun and cannot begin with the pronoun **that**. Notice the use of commas.

Example:

Most restaurants here stay open until midnight, **when many local people are still enjoying dinner.**

Siem Reap has many popular tourist attractions, **which include Angkor Wat and Bayon Temple.**

Form:

... + noun + non-defining relative clause

Note: That can be used for people or things in defining relative clauses. However, it cannot be used as a replacement for **where** or **when** with the meaning “in which”, “at which”, or “during which”.

Example:

Many of the people **that live in Phnom Penh** leave the city in April to vacation in other places.

Siem Reap is that province in Cambodia **where a massive stone temple complex was built.**

Summer is the season **when the Perhentian Islands are crowded with tourists from all over the world.**

That cannot be used in non-defining relative clauses. **Who**, **which**, or **where** are used instead.

Example:

Siem Reap, **which has fascinated Europeans for ages**, draws countless tourists each year.

Our tour guide, **who knew a great deal about souvenirs in Singapore**, helped us buy some beautiful gifts.

Order of modifiers

Shape (round, thin), color (white, black), and material (silk, plastic) are also used to describe nouns. They appear in the following order:

Quality	Size	Shape	Age	Color	Type	Material	Noun
quaint	little	winding					streets
picturesque			old	brightly colored	resort		hotels
	small				Thai	wooden	fishing boats
exciting	large				port		town
run-down			old		port		town

Connecting contrasting ideas

There are three ways to connect contrasting ideas.

To begin an adverb clause, use **although** or **even though**.

Example:

I'd like to live in a small town someday **even though** I love all the opportunities in big cities.

Although I love all the opportunities in big cities, I'd like to live in a small town someday.

To begin an independent clause, use the transition words **however**, **nevertheless**, or **on the other hand**. Note the punctuation with transition words.

Example:

I love big cities. **However/On the other hand**, I'd like to live in a small town someday.

I love big cities; **nevertheless/however**, I'd like to live in a small town someday.

To begin a noun phrase, use the prepositions **despite** or **in spite of**.

Example:

Despite all the opportunities in big cities, I'd like to live in a small town someday.

I'd like to live in a small town someday **in spite of** all the opportunities in big cities.