

WHO-WHICH CLAUSES CAN MODIFY NOUNS:

Tom, who usually loves pizza, chose soup.

The spider, which terrified Miss Muffet, quietly spun a web.

CAN MODIFY IDEAS:

Cheese makers usually squeeze out most of the whey, which makes cottage cheese appear more attractive.

CAN COMBINE SENTENCES.

To help students develop sophisticated language patterns, be sure to read aloud to them and practice poetry memorization. Visit IEW.com/NCC-E.

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WHO-WHICH CLAUSE (w-w)

Who-which clauses are adjective clauses, which usually modify the noun they follow.

- Use *who* for people and *which* for things. *Whose* and *whom* may also count as a *who-which* dress-up.
- Animals take a *which*, except when personified, such as in fables.
- *Which* clauses may also be used to modify the entire idea that comes before.
- When *who* or *which* asks a question, it does not count as a dress-up.

There are two ways to add *who-which* clauses to a paragraph:

- **Combine short sentences.** Show students that two sentences can be combined with a *who-which*.
 - *Miss Muffet hated spiders. Miss Muffet perched on her tuffet.*
 - *Miss Muffet, who hated spiders, perched on her tuffet.*
- **Add information about a noun.** Find a noun, and add more information about it using *who* for people and *which* for things. Instruct students to place the *who-which* clause immediately after the noun that is being described.
 - *The spider, which dangled on its thread, terrified Miss Muffett.*
 - *Miss Muffett, who scampered away, did not finish her lunch.*

When adding *who-which* clauses, warn students not to let the *which* “steal” the verb, as in this example: *Miss Muffet, who hated spiders.* This fragment needs another verb to finish the sentence.

ADVANCED: INVISIBLE WHO-WHICH

Who-which's followed by a *be* verb can be invisible for a more stylish sentence. Examples: *Miss Muffet settled down with her curds and whey, ~~which was~~ her favorite food. She leaned back on the tree, ~~which was~~ located in her backyard.* In both cases, we could drop *which was* for a more elegant construction. The essential/nonessential rules apply to invisibles.