Is the clause required to understand the noun?

- No (non-restrictive)

What are you describing?

- Subject or object?

A Person

- Subject or object?

- Subject

  - Use "who"

- Object

  - Use "whom"

A Thing

- Subject or object?

A possessive person or thing (subject or object)

- Subject

  - Use "whose"

- Object

  - Use "which"

A Clause

- Subject

  - Use "which"

- Object

  - Use preposition + "which"

Direct or indirect object?

- Direct Object

- Indirect Object

Subject

- Use "whose"

A possessive person or thing (subject or object)

- Subject

  - Use "whose"

- Object

  - Use "which"

A Person

- Subject or object?

- Subject

  - Use "who"

- Object

  - Use "whom"

A Thing

- Subject or object?

A possessive person or thing (subject or object)

- Subject

  - Use "whose"

- Object

  - Use "which"

A Clause

- Subject

  - Use "which"

- Object

  - Use preposition + "which"

Direct or indirect object?

- Direct Object

- Indirect Object

Example:

Without Relative Clause: Michael Brown was killed by a white police officer. Michael Brown was an unarmed black teenager.

With Relative Clause: Michael Brown, who was an unarmed black teenager, was killed by a white police officer.

Example:

Without Relative Clause: I want to feel connected with my roommates. I met my roommates yesterday.

With Relative Clause: I want to feel connected with my roommates, whom I met yesterday.

No reduced form.

Example:

Without Relative Clause: Police reactions sometimes are unnecessary because police treat people unfairly based on their race. Police treating people unfairly based on their race will cause conflicts and violence in our community.

With Relative Clause: Police reactions sometimes are unnecessary because police treat people unfairly based on their race, which will cause conflicts and violence in our community.

No reduced form because of the future tense.

Example:

Without Relative Clause: Measles causes fever and a red rash on the skin. Measles is a contagious disease.

With Relative Clause: Measles, which is a contagious disease, causes fever and a red rash on the skin.

Reduced Form:

Measles, a contagious disease, causes fever and a red rash on the skin.

Example:

Without Relative Clause: Each stall in Giedt’s restroom uses a slide bolt latch. A slide bolt latch is a locking device.

With Relative Clause: Each stall in Giedt’s restroom uses a slide bolt latch, which is a locking device.

Reduced Form:

Each stall in Giedt’s restroom uses a slide bolt latch, a locking device.

Example:

Without Relative Clause: My classmate thought I was cheating when I got a good score in our class. I did not do well in our class before. My classmate thought I was cheating when I got a good score in our class in which I did not do well before.

(Note: No comma is used because of the preposition. No reduced form.)