



## BEFORE & AFTER NON-ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS

Clauses that begin with "which," "who," and "where" usually add extra information about a noun in a sentence. These clauses are considered non-essential if the information in the clause does not make the noun go from vague to more specific.

Do not use commas with clauses that begin in "which," "who," or "where" if the information is essential in making the noun more specific.

Note: Never use commas with clauses that begin with "that."

*Mr. White, who was my English 101 professor, is still teaching.*  
(The fact that he was your English 101 professor is nonessential.)

*That man who is wearing the yellow shirt was my English 101 professor.*  
(The yellow shirt is essential to distinguish which man you are talking about.)

## WITH "SUCH AS"

"Such as" and "including" only need a comma before them if they come at the end of the sentence. If "such as" is in the middle of the sentence, it may not need a comma at all.

*I enjoy books that critique social norms, such as Pride and Prejudice.*

*I enjoy books such as Pride and Prejudice that critique social norms.*