

Commas to Indicate Parenthesis

Commas are used before and after an embedded clause (a group of words that includes a subject and a verb).

The embedded clause is put into a sentence to add additional detail for the reader but the sentence would be grammatically complete without it.

The embedded clause does not make sense by itself.

Starting the embedded clause with where, which, who or when is a useful tool to help when first using embedded clauses. When the clause starts in this way we call it a relative clause.

Example 1:

The spy, **who blended into the crowd**, scanned his surroundings for danger.

Diagram labels: "commas" points to the commas before and after the embedded clause. "embedded relative clause" points to the clause "who blended into the crowd".

Example 2:

Celia, **who loved animals**, searched for the lost cat.

Diagram labels: "commas" points to the commas before and after the embedded clause. "embedded relative clause" points to the clause "who loved animals".

