**Comma Rule: Nonessential Clauses**

**Essential vs Nonessential**

* If something is **essential**, what is it?
  + **Essential**: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* The suffix *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*makes the word **nonessential** the opposite of essential.
  + **Nonessential**: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ required

**Essential Clauses**

* **Essential clause**: the information in the clause is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to the understanding of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** can be a signal word for essential information.

The garage *that my uncle built* is falling down.

The person *checking tickets at the counter* asked for a form of identification.

The woman *who interviewed you* is my sister .

**Nonessential Clauses**

* **Nonessential clause:** Use commas \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ nonessential clauses that interrupt a sentence without changing the essential meaning.
* **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** is a signal word for nonessential clauses.

The novel, *which I really enjoyed*, deserves a second read.

My uncle, *who is eighty years old*, walks three miles every day.

**The Big Question: (How to tell if a clause is essential or not)**

* If you leave out the clause or put it somewhere else in the sentence, does the essential meaning of the sentence change?
* If so, the element is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_; if not, it is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.