

That / , which

That

- no comma
- restrictive clause (necessary for the sentence to make sense)
- Puppies that cry concern me.

Which

- usually has a comma before it
- nonrestrictive clause (not necessary for the sentence)
- Puppies, which often cry, concern me.

In the example: “Puppies that cry concern me.” note the meaning—not all puppies concern you, only those that are crying concern you. The concern is restricted to those who are crying.

In the example: “Puppies, which often cry, concern me.”—all puppies concern you (the fact that puppies often cry doesn’t affect your level of concern). The concern is not restricted to those who are crying.

Practice some of your own using the following:
alligator/toothbrush
mouse/tea party
sealion/purple

That/, which Worksheet

For each example below, determine whether you should use “which” or “that.” In other words, is each clause restrictive or non-restrictive? Circle the correct choice.

1. As far as she knows, it is the only answer (that/which) makes any sense.
2. Cameron ate the cookies (that/which) I had just purchased this morning.
3. Her brother’s car, (that/which) Cheri has never liked, is finally up for sale.
4. Any traumatic event (that/which) has a profound effect on someone’s life has the potential to have long-lasting effects, too.
5. A bicycle (that/which) that does not have air in its tires is essentially out of commission.
6. She wanted (that/which) one?
7. The scale (that/which) she normally uses to weigh her meat portions is broken at the moment.
8. Politicians in Washington do not seem as if they are willing to compromise with one another, (that/which) really is a shame and does a disservice to those who voted the men and women into office in the first place.
9. His racing car, (that/which) is by far the fastest on the track, is favored to win the race.
10. She tends to only want to watch the movies (that/which) hold a special interest or cover certain genres.

That/, which Worksheet Answer Key

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