

LESSON PLAN GUIDE

PictureBook English Reading Series — Grammar Fluency

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Category	Fluency in Key Grammar	Title	Grammar Book 21 – Things We Invented: Adjective Clauses Behind Nouns
Ages	6–9	Theme	Adjective Clauses — Noun + Description + 30 Inventions A to Z

INTRODUCTION OF THE BOOK

In this book, children explore 30 life-changing inventions from A to Z — and in doing so, master one of English's most important and versatile structures: the adjective clause. By practising the Noun + Description pattern ('A battery is a device people charge'), children build the structural intuition needed to define, describe, and explain complex ideas clearly and naturally.

A key feature of this book is the Object Gap — the natural English tendency to drop the connector 'that' in spoken language: 'The phone I use' rather than 'The phone that I use.' Reading and hearing 30 invention definitions aloud helps children develop an ear for this functional language that immediately makes their speech sound more natural and fluent.

ADJECTIVE CLAUSE PATTERNS

Pattern	Structure	Example
Object gap (no connector)	Noun + [subject + verb]	<i>A battery is a device people charge. / The phone I use is new.</i>
With 'that' (optional)	Noun + that + [subject + verb]	<i>A battery is a device that people charge. / The phone that I use is new.</i>
With 'which' (things)	Noun + which + [subject + verb]	<i>It is a tool which helps us cook quickly.</i>
With 'who/that' (people)	Noun + who/that + [subject + verb]	<i>An inventor is a person who creates new things.</i>
With 'where' (places)	Noun + where + [subject + verb]	<i>A library is a place where people borrow books.</i>

WITH CONNECTOR VS WITHOUT — NATURAL ENGLISH

Invention	With connector	Without connector (natural)
battery	<i>A battery is a device that people charge.</i>	<i>A battery is a device people charge.</i>
airplane	<i>An airplane is a machine that carries people through the sky.</i>	<i>An airplane is a machine that carries people through the sky.</i>
zipper	<i>A zipper is a fastener that you pull to open or close things.</i>	<i>A zipper is a fastener you pull to open or close things.</i>
spoon	<i>A spoon is a tool that people use to eat soup.</i>	<i>A spoon is a tool people use to eat soup.</i>

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Children will be able to:

- Form adjective clauses using that, which, who, and where
- Use the natural object gap — dropping 'that' in spoken and informal written English
- Define 30 inventions using the Noun + Description pattern
- Describe objects without naming them — practising the definition structure in reverse
- Create original definitions for everyday objects and imaginary inventions

LEARNING ACTIVITIES

1. Play the Mystery Bag game

Put a household object in a bag. Ask your child to describe it without naming it, using the patterns from the book: 'It is a tool I use to eat soup' (a spoon) or 'It is a device people use to tell the time' (a clock). This reverse-definition game practises the Object Gap naturally — children describe the noun without saying its name, using only the adjective clause. The whole family can play!

2. Spot the Missing Word

As you read through the A–Z definitions, point out that English often drops the word 'that'. Compare: 'A battery is a device that people charge' and 'A battery is a device people charge.' Ask: 'Do both sound correct to you?' Reading aloud and listening carefully helps children develop an ear for this natural omission — one of the key features of fluent, native-sounding English.

3. Create an Invention Gallery

Ask your child to pick five objects in the room and write a definition for each one using the Noun + Description pattern. For example: 'This is a chair I sit on when I eat.' or 'This is a box I keep my books in.' Then encourage them to invent a new use: 'This is a lamp I use as a secret hiding place.' The more creative the definition, the more deeply the structure is practised.

4. Go through the A–Z inventions

Read through all 30 invention definitions in the book aloud together. After each one, close the book and ask your child to recreate the definition from memory using the same pattern. Start with the easier ones and build up to the more complex. By the end, children will have practised the adjective clause structure 30 times in meaningful, varied contexts.

FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES

Play Definition Detectives. Write a mystery definition using an adjective clause — without naming the object — and challenge your child to guess what it is. For example: 'It is a machine people use to keep food cold.' (a fridge) or 'It is a place where children go to learn.' (a school). Then swap — your child writes the mystery definition and you guess. This game can be extended to animals, places, people, and jobs — any noun can be defined with an adjective clause, making this a truly versatile vocabulary and grammar activity.

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TEACHER'S NOTES AND TIPS

Adjective clauses are fundamental to sophisticated writing and speaking — they allow speakers to pack complex information into a single noun phrase rather than using multiple sentences. The Object Gap (omitting 'that') is one of the most important features of natural, fluent English and is rarely taught explicitly. Drawing children's attention to it early gives them a significant advantage. Note that 'that' can be omitted when it functions as an object in the clause ('The phone I use') but NOT when it functions as the subject ('The phone that rings'). The Mystery Bag and Definition Detectives games are particularly effective because they put the structure to immediate, playful use — children stop thinking about grammar and start thinking about communication.