

Which versus That: Short & Sweet

If your sentence has a clause but doesn't need it, use "**which**". (Nonessential clause) (A little trick to help us remember: We don't need "witches"—Hexen!!!).

If the sentence needs the clause, use "**that**". (Essential clause)

Example 1

The old house, which (by the way) is one of my favourites, is in a bad condition.

The clause "which is one of my favourites" can be left out and the sentence still makes sense: *The old house is in a bad condition.*

The type of antibiotic that my doctor prescribed made me feel bad.

The sentence without the clause "that my doctor prescribed" doesn't make sense: *The type of antibiotic made me feel bad.*

Example 2

- *Our house, which (by the way) has 3 bedrooms, is located near the sea.*
- *Our house that has 3 bedrooms is located near the sea.*

The first sentence discusses the location of your only house and it just so happens to have 3 bedrooms. And lucky you, it's near the sea.

The second sentence points out that the house you own with 3 bedrooms is located near the sea. This means you have more than one house, lucky devil. "*That has 3 bedrooms*" is how you distinguish between your many homes.



WHICH OR THAT?