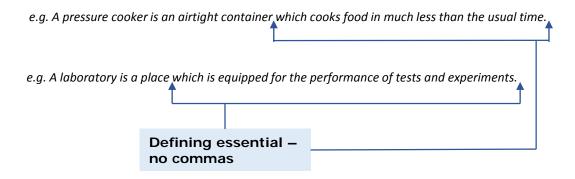
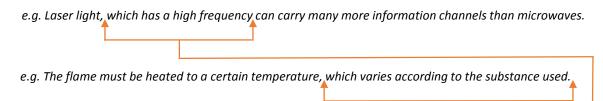
## Defining relative clauses

According to Thomson and Martinet (1986), this type of relative clause describes "the preceding noun in such a way as to distinguish it from the other nouns of the same class". They are "essential to the clear understanding of the noun". In technical contexts, they are commonly used in definitions:



## Non-defining clauses

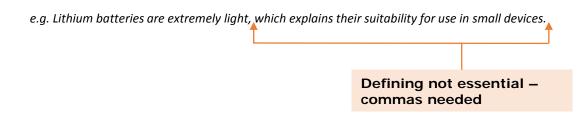
These are used after nouns to give more information about them. There are not essential to the clear understanding of the noun, but add **descriptive detail** or **exaplanation**:



Defining not essential – commas needed

## **Connective relative clauses**

These do not add further detail to the noun; neither do they define it. They are usually placed at the end to make a **comment** on the idea presented in the sentence, or, as Thomson and Martine put it, to "continue the story". (p. 88).





The pronoun '**that**' in a relative clause is never used with a comma to separate it from the noun. It is **always** a **defining relative clause**.