personal english



Grammar Tidbil #10

RELATIVE CLAUSES: That or Which?



Never use that after the comma!

Why, Fraulein Rottenmeier?





Heidi, she doesn't know why, but I do. Here you go:

The things **that** Fraulein Rottermeier doesn't know are numberless.

That introduces essential information that cannot be skipped. This is called a **restrictive clause**.

Fraulein Rottermeier doesn't know numberless things, which is a pity.

Which introduces non-essential information that can be skipped. This is called a **non-restrictive clause**.