Subject: why does the humvee have so little armor???? Posted by mahkra on Tue, 06 Jul 2004 22:07:09 GMT

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Actually, my sentence needs the 'that'. Without it, the second clause is a dependent clause, and you can't make a sentence by linking together two dependent clauses. One of them needs to be independent.

You can think of an independent clause as something that can be a sentence all by itself. "Because people use commas incorrectly" is not a sentence by itself, and neither is "doesn't make it right." "That doesn't make it right," however, IS a complete sentence by itself.

Incidentally, all the examples you gave at the end are okay. "Now I feel stuffed" and "I feel stuffed" are both independent clauses, so the sentence works either way.

You're not completely off, though. When you use 'that' in place of 'which', you don't put a comma before the 'that', but you would if you used 'which'.

EXAMPLES:

"The garage that my uncle built is falling down."

"The garage, which my uncle built, is falling down."

I used 'that' in a different way though.

EDIT: You could say "People's misuse of commas doesn't make it right." Perhaps that sounds better?