



GRAMMAR

RELATIVE CLAUSES

WHAT ARE RELATIVE CLAUSES?

A relative clause is a subordinate clause that modifies a noun or a noun phrase.

Example: The man who is smoking is the murderer
The noun *the man* is modified by the relative clause *who is smoking*.

HOW TO USE RELATIVE CLAUSES

- They are used to provide extra information. This information can either:

1) Define something (defining clause): The girl who is standing there is a world champion in karate.

2) Provide unnecessary but interesting information (non-defining clause): Michael Jackson, who was a famous singer, died of an overdose.

- Relative clauses can be introduced by:

Who/ whom (more formal) and **that** refer to people: Mark was the first person who/ whom/ that studied this phenomenon.

Which and **that** refer to objects: This is the new mobile phone which/ that I have just bought.

Where refer to a particular place: The restaurant where I usually have dinner is nice.

When and **that** refer to a moment in time: He gave me an iPod the day when/ that I celebrated my birthday.

Why refers to a reason: This is why she refused the offer.

Whose refers to possession: This is the man whose daughter works for a TV channel.

SUBJECT PRONOUN OR OBJECT PRONOUN?

- If the relative pronoun is **not followed by a noun or pronoun**, it is a **subject pronoun** and **it can never be omitted**.

The teacher who/ that lives next door is nice.

The apple which/ that is on the table is sweet.

- If the relative pronoun is **followed by a noun or pronoun**, it is an **object pronoun** and **it can be omitted in defining relative clauses**.

The writer who/ whom/ that we met last weekend is very famous.

The film which/ that we watched yesterday was fantastic.

TYPES OF RELATIVE CLAUSES

1) Defining relative clauses

- They give detailed necessary information. They are not written between commas.

I know the man who is standing there.

- They are often used in definitions.

A novelist is someone who writes novels.

- Object pronouns in these clauses can be omitted.

They boy (who/ whom/ that) we met yesterday is very nice.

2) Non-defining relative clauses

- They give interesting additional information which is not necessary for the meaning of the sentence. They are written between commas.

Martin Luther King, who was known for his fight for civil rights, was assassinated in 1968.

In this type of clauses:

- *Who* and *which* cannot be replaced by *that*.

Jim, who we met yesterday, is very nice./ ~~Jim, that we met yesterday, is very nice.~~

- Object relative pronouns cannot be omitted:

Jim, who we met yesterday, is very nice./ ~~Jim, we met yesterday, is very nice.~~

WORKSHEET

1) Fill in the gaps with a suitable relative pronoun.

- This is the man..... saved the kid.
- The house..... windows are open is beautiful.
- July will be the month..... we will go on holidays.
- The writer..... wrote that article won the Nobel Prize.
- He bought a car..... runs fast.

- f) He was wearing a cap..... was black.
- g) The United Kingdom is the country..... we use the pound.

2) Rewrite these sentences using defining or non-defining relative clauses. Specify the type of relative clause in each sentence.

Example: He drank the juice. He made the juice. -> He drank the juice which/ that he made. (Defining)

- a) A lion is an animal. It is very strong.
A lion.....
- b) The girl speaks Chinese. Her mother writes poems.
The girl,.....
- c) A bottle opener is a device. It opens bottles.
A bottle opener.....
- d) Mary works in our office. Her husband is a plastic surgeon.
Mary,
- e) Helen has just arrived. She had a car accident.
Helen,
- f) A detective is someone. He discovers the truth about crimes.
A detective.....
- g) Jane has been sacked. You met her last Sunday.
Jane,