# **RELATIVE CLAUSES**

#### INTRODUCTION

There are two types of relative clauses:

- 1. Defining relative clauses
- 2. Non-defining relative clauses

#### **DEFINING RELATIVE CLAUSES**

These describe the preceding noun in such a way to distinguish it from other nouns of the same class. A clause of this kind is essential to clear understanding of the noun.

The boy who was playing is my brother.

## **Defining Relative Pronouns**

	SUBJECT	OBJECT	POSSESSIVE
For people	Who That	Whom/Who That	Whose
For things	Which That	Which That	Whose Of which

#### Defining Relative Clauses: people

A. Subject: who or that

**Who** is normally used:

The man who robbed you has been arrested.

The girls who serve in the shop are the owner's daughters.

But that is a possible alternative after all, everyone, everybody, no one, nobody and those:

Everyone who/that knew him liked him.

Nobody who/that watched the match will ever forget it.

B. Object of a verb: whom, who or that

The object form is **whom**, but it is considered very formal. In spoken English we normally use **who** or that (that being more usual than who), and it is still more common to omit the object pronoun altogether:

The man whom I saw told me to come back today.

The man who I saw told me to come back today.

The man that I saw told me to come back today.

The man I saw told me to come back today.

C. With a preposition: whom or that

In formal English the preposition is placed before the relative pronoun, which must then be put into the form whom:

The man to whom I spoke...

In informal speech, however, it is more usual to move the preposition to the end of the clause. Whom then is often replaced by that, but it is still more common to omit the relative altogether:

The man who/whom I spoke to...

The man that I spoke to...

The man I spoke to...

#### D. Possesssive

Whose is the only possible form:

People <u>whose rents have been raised</u> can appeal. The film is about a spy <u>whose wife betrays him.</u>

#### **Short answers**

To make short answers:

- we use the verb **to be** (am/is/are/was/were) for *Present Simple, Past Simple, Present Continuous, Past Continuous* and *Going To* questions.
- we use the verb **have** (have/has/had) for *Present Perfect* and *Past Perfect* questions.
- we use will for Future Simple questions.

### **Defining Relative Clauses: things**

#### A. Subject

Either which or that. Which is more formal.

This is the picture which/that caused such a sensation.

The stairs which/that lead to the cellar are rather slippery.

# B. Object of a verb

Which or that or no relative at all.

The car which/that I hired broke down.

The car I hired broke down.

Which is hardly ever used after all, everything, little, much, none, no and compounds of no, or after superlatives. Instead we use that, or omit the relative altogether, if it is the object of a verb:

All the apples <u>that fall</u> are eaten by the pigs.

This is the best hotel (that) I know.

## C. Object of a preposition

The formal construction is preposition + which, but it is more usual to move the preposition to the end of the clause, using **which** or **that** or omitting the relative altogether:

The ladder on which I was standing began to slip.

The ladder which/that I was standing on began to slip.

The ladder I was standing on began to slip.

#### D. Possesssive

Whose + a clause is possible but with + a phrase is more usual:

a house whose walls were made of glass

a house with glass walls

#### E. Relative adverbs: when, where, why

Note that **when** can replace **in/on which** (used of time):

the year <u>when (= in which) he was born</u>

the day when (= in which) they arrived

Where can replace in/at which (used of place):

the hotel where (= in/at which) they were staying

Why can replace for which:

the reason why he refused is...

When, where and why used in this way are called relative adverbs.

#### **NON-DEFINING RELATIVE CLAUSES**

Non-defining relative clauses are placed after nouns which are definite already. They do not therefore define the noun. But merely add something to it by giving some more information about it. They are not essential in the sentence and can be omitted without causing confusion. They are separated from their noun by commas. The pronoun can never be omitted in a non-defining relative clause.

The boy who was playing is my brother.

# **Non-Defining Relative Pronouns**

	SUBJECT	OBJECT	POSSESSIVE
For people	Who	Whom/Who	Whose
For things	Which	Which	Whose Of which

# Non-Defining Relative Clauses: people

A. Subject: who

No other pronoun is possible. Note the commas:

My neighbor, who is very pessimistic, says there will be no apples this year. Peter, who had been driving all day, suggested stopping at the next town.

B. Object: whom, who

The pronoun cannot be omitted. **Whom** is the correct form, though **who** is sometimes used in conversation:

Peter, whom everyone suspected, turned out to be innocent..

C. Object of a preposition: whom

The pronoun cannot be omitted. The preposition is normally placed before whom:

Mr Jones, for whom I was working, was very generous about overtime payments.

It is however possible to move the preposition to the end of the clause. This is commonly done in conversation, and who then usually takes the place of whom:

Mr Jones, who I was working for, was very generous about overtime payments.

If the clause contains an expression of time or place, this will remain at the end:

Peter, with whom I played tennis on Sundays, was fitter than me.

could become:

Peter, who/whom I played tennis with on Sundays, was fitter than me.

D. Possesssive: whose

Ann, whose children are at school all day, is trying to get a job.

This is George, whose class you will be taking.

#### Non-Defining Relative Clauses: things

A. Subject: which

**That** is not used here:

That block, which cost £5 million to build, has been empty for years.

The 8.15 train, which is usually very punctual, was late today.

B. Object: which

**That** is not used here, and the **which** can never be omitted.

She gave me this jumper, which she had knitted herself.

These books, which you can get at any bookshop, will give you all the information you need.

C. Object of a preposition

The preposition comes before which, or (more informally) at the end of the clause:

Ashdown Forest, through which we'll be driving, isn't a forest any longer.

Ashdown Forest, which we'll be driving through, isn't a forest any longer.

His house, for which he paid £10,000, is now worth £50,000.

His house, which he paid £10,000 for, is now worth £50,000.

D. Possesssive: whose or of which

**Whose** is generally used both for animals and things. **Of which** is possible for things, but it is unusual except in very formal English.

His house, <u>whose windows are all broken</u>, was a depressing sight.

The car, <u>whose handbrake wasn't very reliable</u>, began to slide backwards.

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# **EXERCISES**

1.	Write sentences to describe pe	e <u>ople in box A usir</u>	ng the info	<u>rmation in</u>	box B.			
	Α		В					
	arthief a dentist	takes photogra	phs	is very into	elligent			
	a butcher a fool	sells meat		plays a mu	usical inst	rument		
	a musician a genius	is ill in hospital		doesn't te	II the trui	:h		
	a patient a liar	steal things		looks afte	er your te	eth		
	a photographer	is very stupid						
	a. A thief is a person who stea	_						
	b. A butcher is a person who							
	c. A musician is a person							
	d. A patient							
	e					<del></del>		
	f					<del></del>		
	g					<del></del>		
	h					<del></del>		
	i							
2.	Join the sentences to write a lo	•						
	a. A man phoned. He didn't sa	·	•		-			
	b. A woman opened th	ie door. She		_	-			
	<del></del>							ow dress.
	c. Some people live r	next door to	us. T	They are	very	nice.	The	people
	d. A policeman stopped our	car. He wasn't ve	ry friendly	. The polic	eman			
	e. A boy broke the window.	He ran away. Th	e boy					
3.	Write who/that/which in the I	blanks.						
	a. I met a woman <u>who</u> can sp							
	b. What's the name of the ma			door?				
	c. What's the name of the rive				vn?			
	d. Everybody							
	e. Do you know anybody							
	f. Where is the picture			-				
	· ———							

# **ENGLISH GRAMMAR** Relative Clauses

g.	She always asks me questions are difficult to answer.
h.	I have a friend is very good at repairing cars.
i.	A coffee-maker is a machine makes coffee.
j.	I don't like people never stop talking.
-	Have you seen the money was on the table?
l.	Why does he always wear clothes are too small for him?
1.	with ades he always wear clothes are too small for him:
l. Jo	in the sentences to write a single sentence.
	Ann took some photographs. Have you seen them? Have you seen the photographs Ann took?
	You lost a key. Did you find it? Did you find the
ο.	?
C	Jill is wearing a jacket. I like it. I like the
	I gave you some money. Where is it? Where is the
u.	
_	Charteld was a storm I didn't haliana it I
e.	She told us a story. I didn't believe it. I the
,	Ye has all as a second to the control of the contro
f.	You bought some oranges. How much were they? How
	<u> </u>
. Co	mplete the sentences with the information in brackets.
a.	,
b.	(I'm wearing shoes) The shoes are not very comfortable
c.	(you're reading a book) What's the name of the
d.	(I wrote a letter to her) She didn't get the I
e.	(you gave me an umbrella) I've lost
f.	(they invited some people to dinner) The people didn't come
. Co	mplte the sentences with the information in the box.
	you went to a party Linda is dancing with a man you stayed at a hotel
	we looked at a map you were looking for a book I was sitting on a chair
	they live in a house you spoke to a woman
	, ,
a.	What's the name of the hotel you stayed at?
b.	What's the name of the woman you
c.	The house is too small for them
d.	
e.	The chair wasn't very comfortable
f.	The map wasn't very clea
g.	Did you find the book
_	
11.	Who is the man
· Cc	implete the sentences with where and the information in the box.
	we had dinner in a restaurant  John works in a factory
_	we stayed at a hotel they live in a village  What's the name of the hotel where we stayed?
a.	What's the name of the hotel where we stayed?
b.	What's the name of the hotel <i>where we stayed?</i> What's the name of the restaurant
b. c.	What's the name of the hotel where we stayed?

8	Joi	n the sentences using who or which.							
(	a.	We chose the hotel. It seemed to be the nicest. We chose the hotel which seemed to be the nicest.							
ļ	b.	She spoke to the man. He was standing next to her.							
(	c.	I read the letters. They came in the morning post.							
(	d. He likes the other people. They work in his office.								
(	e.	She's that singer. She was on television last night.							
1	f.	Next week there is a festival. It happens in the village every summer.							
	g.	I paid the bills. They came yesterday.							
Card Dav	ol: id:	mplete the conversation by putting who or which into the gaps.  Did you watch that programme last night?  Which one?							
nigh	t.	The programme <u>which</u> I mentioned a couple of days ago. It's a new series started last							
		No, I didn't see it. Was it good?							
		Yes. It was about a group of friends were at school together. Well, Rupert							
		Who was Rupert?							
Card	ol:	He was an old student of the school had become a doctor. He went to a party							
		his old teachers organised. He met a lot of people had been at school with him							
		years before. They talked about the things they did when they were at school. Then							
		nly, Rupert saw an old girl-friend was dancing with John							
Dav	ıa:	Don't tell me any more. It's getting too complicated!							
10	loi	n these sentences using who, which or that, as in the example.							
		She chose the books. She wanted to buy them. She chose the books that she wanted to buy.							
		We ate the sandwiches. Jack made them.							
(	С.	I'm doing some work. I have to finish it today.							
(	d.	She's an old woman. I often see her when I go to the shop.							
(	e.	He's an actor. A lot of people like him.							
1	f.	It's a magazine. I read it sometimes.							
ł	g.	She was wearing a red dress. She wears it for parties.							
11.	Nο	w join these sentences using who or which, as in the example.							
		The person phoned. He didn't leave a message. The person who phoned didn't leave a message.							
I	b.	The bus goes to the airport. It leaves every 20 minutes.							
(	С.	The picture was hanging near the door. It was horrible.							

d.	d. The instructor taught me how to drive. He was very patient.		
e.	The girl was sitting next to me. S	he started talking to me.	
	•	nformation in brackets and who or which.	
a.	(I went to see a doctor. She had mother.	helped my mother.) I went to see the doct	or <i>who had helped</i> my
b.		s Jones.) The dog	belonged to Mrs
c.	(A woman wrote to me. She www. wanted my advice.	vanted my advice.) The woman	
Ь	•	ld.) The bus	was 23 years old
e.		on a lot of money.) Ann talked to a man	
f.	(Mary was staying with her frier	nd. He has a big house in Scotland.) Mary wa	as staying with a friend
g.	(He's an architect. He designed t	he new city library.) He's the architect	
	(I read about a new computer. I	strong.) The table <i>that Jack made</i> is not very had seen it on TV.) I read about the new cor  lit.) Nobody liked the cake	mputer
d.	(Mary sent me a letter. It was ve	ry funny.) The letter	was very funny.
e.		newspaper is going to publish it.) The newsp	
f.		ears old.) The old lady	was 103 years old.
g.		s to buy it.) I saw the house	
14. Co		f the phrases in the box and who or whose.	_
	interviewed me	has visited so many different countries	
	had saved their son	wives have just had babies	
	book won a prize last week	divorce was in the papers	
	car had broken down	complain all the time	
a.	The parents thanked the woman	who had saved their son.	
b.	The couple whose divorce was in	the papers have got married again.	
c.	It is very interesting to meet som	nebody	
d.	The person	asked me some	very difficult questions.
e.	In my office the are two men		
f.	What's the name of that writer _		?
g.	I don't like people		
h.	We helped the woman		

8

15	. Pu	t in <i>who</i> or <i>that</i> ONLY IF NECESSARY.
	a.	The match we saw was boring.
	b.	Did I tell you about the people <u>who</u> live next door?
	c.	The horse <u>that</u> won the race belongs to an Irish woman.
		I love the ice-cream they sell in that shop.
		The book I'm reading is about jazz.
		The woman came to see us was selling magazines.
		We'll go to a restaurant has a children's menu.
		The factory closed last week had been there for 70 years.
	i.	Have you read about the schoolgirl started her own business and is now a millionaire?
	j.	Jane says that the house Tom has bought has a beautiful garden.
16	. Ma	ake one sentence from the two that are given. Use who or which with the underlined words.
	a.	Mont Blanc is between France and Italy. It is the highest mountain in the Alps.
		Mont Blanc, which is between France and Italy, is the highest mountain in the Alps.
	b.	Alfred Hitchcock was born in Britain. He worked for many years in Hollywood.
	c.	The sun is really a star. It is 93 million miles from the earth
	d.	John F Kennedy <u>died in 1963</u> . He was a very famous American President.
	e.	Charlie Chaplin was from a poor family. He became a very rich man.
	f.	The 1992 Olympics were held in Barcelona. It <u>is the north-east of Spain</u> .
	g.	We went to see the Crown Jewels. They <u>are kept in the Tower of London</u> .
17	Fro	om the notes, make one sentence. Use <i>who</i> or <i>which</i> with the words in brackets.
		Greta Garbo. (She was born in Sweden.) She moved to America in 1925.
	u.	Greta Garbo, who was born in Sweden, moved to America in 1925.
	h	Football. (It first started in Britain.) It is now popular in many countries.
	υ.	Football,
	c.	Margaret Thatcher. (She was the Prime Minister of Britain for 11 years.) She studied science at university.
	d.	Michelangelo. (He lived until he was 90.) He is one of Italy's greatest artists.
	e.	The Nile. (It runs through several countries.) It is the longest river in Africa.
	f.	Gandhi. (He was born in1869.) He became India's nationalist leader.
	g.	Elephants. (They are found in Africa and India.) They live to a great age.
18	a.	
	b.	Darwin. (His ideas changed our view of the world.) He travelled to a lot of countries when he was young.

c.	Madonna. (Her parents were born in Italy.) She is a famous American singer.
d.	Bill Clinton. (His wife is a brilliant lawyer.) He became President of the USA in 1993.
e.	Sebastian Coe. (He was a successful English runner.) He is now a politician.
f.	Catherine of Russia. (She ruled for over 30 years.) She made many important changes.

#### 19. Underline the words that which refers to.

- a. They climbed Snowdon, which is the highest mountain in Wales.
- b. They climbed Snowdon, which made them very tired.
- c. Maria sang and played the guitar, which everyone enjoyed a lot.
- d. The boat stopped at Souse, which is in Tunisia.
- e. The coach stopped at a petrol station, which allowed everyone to get out.
- f. We listened to the news, which was in French.

20. Add the missing	g relative.	, but make a	contact-clause	where possible.

a.	I know a man	eats paper.
b.	The man	_ you want has just left.
c.	It's a kind of paper	you can eat.
d.	The lady	was here yesterday has gone out.
e.	He eats only the paper	his wife makes.
f.	The magazine	you lent me was very old.
g.	His wife is a woman	loves a joke.
h.	The chair	_ was broken is now mended.
i.	He's one of the people	I really like.
j.	The old man	lives next door has just died.
k.	You can write on the pa	per she makes.
l.	Women	work in hospitals are admired.
m.	Has this paper got a flav	vour pleases you?
n.	The cigarette	you are smoking is a Player's.
ο.	Have you met anyone e	else does such tricks?
p.	The girl	lives next door is very pretty.
q.	I'm looking for someon	e I can trust.
r.	The fish	I ate yesterday was not so good.
s.	I want to find a man	will lend me money.
t.	The street	leads to the school is very wide.

#### 21. Correct the errors in these sentences.

- a. Joan won the prize, that surprised me a lot.
- b. The children, that were playing football, broke one of my windows.
- c. The house in that I was born has just been demolished.
- d. Fred is the man who he lives next door.
- e. The books which they are on the table are mine.
- f. I can't remember the name of the person from who I borrowed this pen.

I-	This is the box in which I had put my English books. This is the box I had put my English books in.
b.	The man with whom she had lunch yesterday is her boss.
c.	The knife with which you are cutting the meat belonged to my great grandmother.
d.	The company for which he works has gone bankrupt.
e.	We didn't recognize the people at whom we were looking.
f.	I can't remember the person from whom I took the money.
	mplete the sentences with relative pronouns.
	Christopher Columbus was the sailor <u>who/that</u> discovered America.
	This food has an ingredient is very sweet.
	The lady son plays football with me is the headteacher of my school.
	The house I was born is now for sale.
	Antonio Banderas, is married to Melanie Griffith, was born in Málaga.
	D.H. Lawrence, was an English author, wrote many interesting novels.
g.	London, is on the river Thames, is the capital of the United Kingdom.
h.	The Prado Museum, is in Madrid, is one of the best art galleries in the world.
a. b.	n each pair of sentences with a relative clause. Omit the relative pronouns wherever possible.  Last night we met a man. He's a millionaire. Last night we met a man who/that is a millionaire.  Yesterday we found a wallet. It was empty.
a. b.	Last night we met a man. He's a millionaire. Last night we met a man who/that is a millionaire.
a. b. c.	Last night we met a man. He's a millionaire. Last night we met a man who/that is a millionaire. Yesterday we found a wallet. It was empty.
a. b. c. d.	Last night we met a man. He's a millionaire. Last night we met a man who/that is a millionaire.  Yesterday we found a wallet. It was empty.  We like cereals. Well, if they are wholemeal.
a. b. c. d.	Last night we met a man. He's a millionaire. Last night we met a man who/that is a millionaire.  Yesterday we found a wallet. It was empty.  We like cereals. Well, if they are wholemeal.  Michaelangelo was a famous artist. He painted the Sistine Chapel.
a. b. c. d. e.	Last night we met a man. He's a millionaire. Last night we met a man who/that is a millionaire. Yesterday we found a wallet. It was empty.  We like cereals. Well, if they are wholemeal.  Michaelangelo was a famous artist. He painted the Sistine Chapel.  She's bought a CD. It is broken.  I had won some money. I spent it on a new bike.
a. b. c. d. e. f.	Last night we met a man. He's a millionaire. Last night we met a man who/that is a millionaire. Yesterday we found a wallet. It was empty.  We like cereals. Well, if they are wholemeal.  Michaelangelo was a famous artist. He painted the Sistine Chapel.  She's bought a CD. It is broken.  I had won some money. I spent it on a new bike.  n each pair of sentences using non-defining relative clauses.
a. b. c. d. e. f.	Last night we met a man. He's a millionaire. Last night we met a man who/that is a millionaire. Yesterday we found a wallet. It was empty.  We like cereals. Well, if they are wholemeal.  Michaelangelo was a famous artist. He painted the Sistine Chapel.  She's bought a CD. It is broken.  I had won some money. I spent it on a new bike.  n each pair of sentences using non-defining relative clauses.  Madonna is a popular pop singer and actress. She was born in the USA.
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a. b. c. d. e. f. 25. Jo a. b. c.	Last night we met a man. He's a millionaire. Last night we met a man who/that is a millionaire. Yesterday we found a wallet. It was empty.  We like cereals. Well, if they are wholemeal.  Michaelangelo was a famous artist. He painted the Sistine Chapel.  She's bought a CD. It is broken.  I had won some money. I spent it on a new bike.  n each pair of sentences using non-defining relative clauses.  Madonna is a popular pop singer and actress. She was born in the USA.  Madonna, who was born in the USA, is a popular pop singer and actress.  Madonna, who is a popular pop singer and actress, was born in the USA.  My grandparents live in Córdoba. They are school teachers.  Victoria Station is situated near Buckingham Palace. It is one of the most famous railway stations London.