

Relative Pronouns

Relative clauses	
Defining relative clauses are used to specify which person or thing we mean. Who or that are used for people. Which or that are used for things. We don't use commas in a defining relative clause.	<i>I have a friend who / that speaks five languages.</i> <i>She showed me the coat which / that she had bought.</i>
Non-defining relative clauses (extra information clauses) are used to add extra information to a sentence. We use commas in a non-defining relative clause. Who is used for people. Which is used for things. That cannot be used.	<i>Mr. Fry, who speaks five languages, works as a translator for the EU.</i> Mr Fry, that speaks five languages, works as a translator for the EU. <i>The area, which has very high unemployment, is in the north of the country.</i> The area, that has very high unemployment, is in the north of the country.
Relative pronouns	
We can use who or that when we talk about people. Who is more formal than that.	<i>This is the man who helped us. (more formal)</i> <i>This is the man that helped us. (less formal)</i> We don't use <i>what</i>: This is the man what helped us.
We use which or that when we talk about things (but not people).	<i>It's the watch which my husband bought me for my birthday. (more formal)</i>

Which is more formal than that .	<i>It's the watch that my husband bought me for my birthday. (less formal)</i>
In informal speech, we can omit which and that when the pronoun refers to the object of the sentence.	<i>It's the watch my husband bought me for my birthday.</i> In this sentence, 'the watch' is the object of the verb <i>bought</i> so we don't need to use <i>that</i> or <i>which</i> .
We cannot omit which and that when the pronoun refers to the subject of the sentence.	<i>It was the man that sold me the car.</i> In this sentence, 'the man' is the subject of the verb <i>sold</i> so we need to use <i>that</i> or <i>who</i> . <i>It was the man sold me the car.</i>
We use whose to show possession.	<i>John, whose brother was also a musician, plays over 100 concerts every year.</i>
We use where when the pronoun refers to a place.	<i>The restaurant where we met was downtown.</i>
We use when when the pronoun refers to a time.	<i>I can meet you tomorrow when I'll be free.</i>

Complete the sentences with a relative pronoun. Sometimes more than an answer is possible.

that – which – who – whose – where – when

1. I don't know _____ is the man standing at the front door.
2. John lives in a town _____ he works.
3. John lives in a town _____ is near the ocean.
4. I love spring _____ the birds sing songs.
5. That's the woman _____ daughter I love very much.
6. The flat _____ my sister rented last year is really nice.
7. Dictionaries are books _____ are very useful for me.

8. Oscar met an old friend _____ was at primary school 20 years ago.
9. The salesclerk was talking to a customer _____ was very furious.
10. George was the tour guide _____ showed me the National Gallery.
11. Rose bought a carpet _____ was made in Turkey.
12. A vegetarian is someone _____ never eats meat.
13. The woman _____ called yesterday wasn't very kind.
14. The red car, _____ David drove last Summer, was German.
15. Ireland is a country _____ I always wanted to visit.
16. Yolanda is reading a book _____ is about the power of mind.
17. They didn't like the movie _____ they borrowed from Susie.
18. The movie, _____ they borrowed from Susie, talks about a family.
19. A mechanic is a person _____ repairs cars and trucks.
20. Alex found a job in a company _____ builds planes.
21. The soccer player _____ scored the goal was Italian.
22. Paul is the neighbor _____ son is very friendly.
23. Alice travelled to India _____ she visited nice places.
24. All my personal documents, _____ were in the suitcase, were stolen.
25. My bike, _____ has a broken seat, is in the garage.
26. London Bridge is one of the most popular places _____ people want to go.

27. London Bridge is one of the most popular places _____ people want to visit.
28. The people, _____ were stopped at the border were all from Eastern Europe.
29. He is the consultant _____ advice I rely on.
30. This is Mary, _____ is taking over my job when I leave.
31. The teacher, _____ comes from Scotland, gives Math classes.
32. The photocopier, _____ has a two-year guarantee, costs \$2000.
33. The day _____ the concert takes place is Saturday.
34. He is the one _____ the award should be given to.
35. The President of the company, _____ I really admire, is visiting us next week.