# Defining relative clauses 1

a) Study these examples and class notes:

We use personal pronouns to avoid repeating information:

I have a dog. **My dog** is very big.
I have a dog. **It** is very big.

We use relative pronouns (who, which, that, whose) and relative adverbs (where, when) to replace a personal pronoun and join two sentences into one with a relative clause:

I have a dog. **It** is very big.
I have a dog **which** is very big.

The relative pronoun usually appears right after its antecedent (the person, thing, place… that it refers to):

I have **a dog** **which** is very big.
I know **a woman** **who** can play three instruments.
This is **something** **that** I have never told anyone.
I know **a place** **where** they serve great food.
That was **the year** **when** I started studying at university.
There's **a man** **whose wife** has just had a baby. (the man's wife)

"Whom" is an object pronoun that is used instead of "who" (especially in formal English). In relative clauses it is often omitted, unless it comes after a comma or a preposition:

She's **the woman** **about whom** I have told you.
= She's **the woman** (that) I have told you **about**.

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b) Study the examples above and choose the correct relative:

that when where which who whom whose

We use _____ to refer to things and animals.

We use _____ to refer to people or things.

We use _____ or _____ to refer to a person.

We use _____ to refer to specific moments.

We use _____ to refer to places.

We use _____ to refer to someone's belongings or relatives.

c) To learn how to rephrase two sentences as a single one with a relative clause, study the class notes below and do the exercises:

**1** If the common element in both sentences is at the end of a sentence and at the beginning of the other, just replace it in the second sentence with a relative pronoun:

I have a dog. It is very big.
Od S
I have a dog which is very big.
S
_____/
Od

You may have to invert the order of the sentences:

A man has been arrested. The police are questioning him.
S Od
The police are questioning the man who has been arrested.
S
_____/
Od

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d) Now join these sentences with a relative clause. Sometimes more than one answer are possible:

1. I have bought a new mobile. It has cost me a hundred pounds.

_____

2. The man has a black briefcase. I need to talk to him.

_____

3. I want to show my parents a car. I hope they will buy it.

_____

4. We have some oranges. They are not too sour.

_____

e) Now check your answers and correct them if necessary.

1. 2. 3. 4.

f) Now read these class notes:

**2** If the relative adverb is **where**, it usually replaces **here** or **there**:

They found him **on a beach**. There were a lot of people **there**.
They found him **on a beach where** there were a lot of people.

If the relative adverb is **when**, it usually replaces **then**:

They found him **one day**. It was very sunny **then**.
They found him **one day when** it was very sunny.

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g) Now join these sentences with a relative clause.

1. This is the place. The terrorists hid their bomb here.

_____

2. That was the year. They went on their honeymoon then.

_____

3. That's the street. There was a car accident there yesterday.

_____

h) Now check your answers and correct them if necessary.

1. 2. 3.

i) Now read these class notes:

**3** If the common element is at the end of a sentence and in the middle of the other, insert one sentence into the other so that the relative is right after its antecedent:

They found a man on the beach. The man looked injured.
Od S

They found a man who looked injured on the beach.
S
_____/
Od

Or:
The man (whom) they found on the beach looked injured.
Od
_____/
S

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j) Now join these sentences with a relative clause. Sometimes more than one answer are possible:

1. I have to tell you something. You will find it very interesting.

_____

2. The man lives next to me. He has won the lottery.

_____

_____

3. I need someone to help me. I need someone strong.

_____

4. I have met a girl. Her eyes are totally black.

_____

5. The ship had been attacked by pirates. They interviewed its captain.

_____

6. We visited an island. They once found a treasure on it.

_____

7. It is a quiet time of the year. There aren't a lot of tourists now.

_____

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