

# 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**.

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:

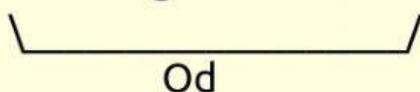
**1** If the common element in both sentences is at the end of a sentence and at the beginning of the other, just replace it in the second sentence with a relative pronoun:

I have a dog. It is very big.

Od    S

I have a dog which is very big.

S



You may have to invert the order of the sentences:

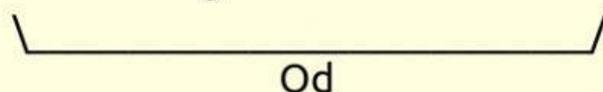
A man has been arrested. The police are questioning him.

S

Od

The police are questioning the man who has been arrested.

S



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.

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

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

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

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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.



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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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