

ADVANCED 3 UNIT 5

GRAMMAR

Prepositions in defining relative clauses

Prepositions normally come **at the end** of a **defining** relative clause in **informal** written and spoken styles:

The woman **that/who** you were talking **to**.

In more **formal** styles they come **before** the **relative pronoun**.

Who is replaced by **whom**. Don't use **that**,

The woman **to whom** you were talking.

Prepositions in relative clauses

Formal

She's the person **from whom** I'm buying the house.

That's the house **into which** I'm moving.

Informal

She's the person (**that / who**) I'm buying the house **from**.

That's the house (**that / which**) I'm moving **into**.

Of in non-defining relative clauses

My friends, **many of whom are in debt / all of whom are broke**, often want me to lend them money.

I bought several souvenirs, the **most expensive of which / the first of which** is this necklace.

1 Add the prepositions in parentheses to the sentences

- a Is that the book you were telling me yesterday? (about)
- b Who was that strange person that you were talking on the bus? (to)
- c What's the name of that restaurant that we went with Rob? (to)
- d I have lots of pretty dresses, many which I rarely wear. (of)
- e This is the woman whom I work. (with)
- f I spoke to a number of different people, many whom I had never met before.

- a _____
- b _____
- c _____
- d _____
- e _____
- f _____

2 Rewrite the sentences to make them more informal.

A The grocery store at which I do my shopping is very cheap.

B I have a good friend with whom I like to go shopping.

C At the moment, there is nothing for which I am saving up.

D I never buy clothes in which I don't feel comfortable.

E Being tight-fisted is something of which my friends would never accuse me.

F I can't remember the last person to whom I gave a gift.

G The last thing for which I wrote out a check was very expensive.

Of in non-defining relative clauses

You can modify the relative pronoun in **non-defining** relative clauses using **quantifiers** and **determiners** such as **many, all, most + of**. When talking about people, the relative pronoun **who** changes to **whom**:

The audience, **many of whom** had seen the movie before, all stood up and applauded.
The relative pronoun **which stays** the same:

He offered me a pile of books, **many of which** were battered and torn.

Remember that you **cannot use** the relative pronoun **that** in **non-defining** relative clauses:

2 Look at this pair of sentences. **Identify** the relative clause in b. Then, **answer** the questions

A I bought lots of clothes on sale; I'll probably never wear most of them.

B I bought lots of clothes on sale, most of which I'll probably never wear.

Is it a defining or non-defining relative clause? _____

How do you know? _____

Can which be replaced by that? _____

3 Rewrite these sentences to include a non-defining relative clause, as in sentence b in Exercise 2.

a I earn \$200 a week. I spend half of it on rent.

b I have several close friends. None of my close friends enjoys shopping.

c There are several restaurants near my house. The nicest restaurant is out of my price range.

d My cell phone bills are pretty high. I got the latest bill last week

e The people in my class can't afford to go out for a fancy meal. The majority of them don't have jobs.
