

Relative clauses

Which, that, who, where, when, whose

3 Some examples of another type of relative clause:

*The computer which/that I bought last week doesn't work very well.
He's a singer who/that I really like.*

4 We can form relative clauses with this pattern:

noun + which/that/who + second subject + verb

*The book which/that I'm reading is great.
She's a person who/that everyone likes.*

In this kind of relative clause, there is another subject after **which, who or that**: **I** is the subject of **'m reading**; **everyone** is the subject of **likes**.

Notice that we do not use an object pronoun after the verb:

~~NOT the book that I'm reading it ...~~
~~NOT a person who everyone likes her ...~~

5 We can use **where** and **when** in this kind of relative clause:

*It's a café where a lot of young people meet each other.
1999 was the year when I first travelled abroad.*

6 We can use **whose + noun** with or without a second subject:

*He's an actor whose films are always very popular.
He's an actor whose films I really like.*

Grammar in action

4 We use this kind of relative clause to give information that involves another thing or person in addition to the person or thing we are talking about:

The book that she was reading was very boring.



This sentence gives information both about 'the book' – it was boring – and about 'she' – she was reading it.

5 We use **where** to give information about a place. Here, the speaker is showing someone their home town:

This is the house where I spent my childhood.

6 We use **when** to give information about a time or a period of time. We might use it to explain what happens on a certain day:

September is the day when the school year starts.

7 We use **whose + noun** as a possessive form, instead of 'my', 'his', 'her', etc. to give information about people's possessions, family members, names, organizations, or creations:

*She's a writer whose books have sold millions.
(= her books have sold ...)*

D The birthday party

Kate and Anna are talking before they go to a birthday party for their friend Carmen. Complete their conversation, using **who** or **which** and the phrases in the box.

she knows you've never met I always enjoy she didn't like you showed
I haven't seen nobody else will get I bought I'm sure

KATE Will I know many of the people at Carmen's party?

ANNA Most of them, I think. But there will be some people ^{who you've never met}¹ before. There will be people ^{from work}².

KATE What have you bought her?

ANNA I've bought her something ^{she'll like}³ ^{her. It's a piece of jewellery}⁴.

KATE Are you going to wear that dress ^{me the other day}⁴?

ANNA No, I'm going to wear the jacket ^{last week}⁵.

KATE Will Jerry be there? He's someone ^{for ages}⁶.

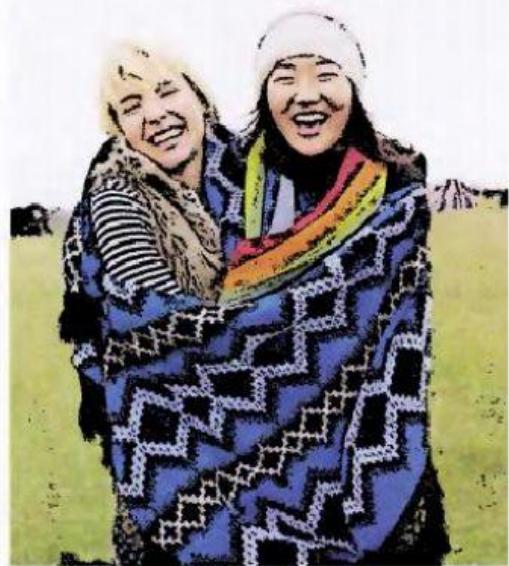
ANNA I don't know. He said something to Carmen ^{I don't think}⁷. I don't think they're friends any more.

KATE Oh that's a shame. He's a funny guy ^{meeting. Anyway,}⁸ let's go ...

My holiday photos

Anthony is showing his holiday photographs to a friend. Correct the underlined parts of what he says.

- 0 These are some photos that I took them that I took on holiday.
- 1 This is someone who we met him at the hotel.
- 2 I took this on the day which we went to the cathedral.
- 3 That's a photo of us that another guest at the hotel he took
- 4 This is the hotel that we stayed
- 5 Those are some people from our group whose their names I can't remember
- 6 That's me in a hat that I bought it in a souvenir shop.
- 7 Those are some people who we made friends with them in a restaurant one night.
- 8 That's the man which bag got lost at the airport.



General knowledge quiz

Rewrite these questions for a general knowledge quiz, using relative clauses.

When you have done the exercise, answer the questions or try to find the answers.

- 0 Name this writer. She wrote the Harry Potter books.
Name the writer who wrote the Harry Potter books
- 1 Name this building. It's the tallest in the world.
Name the building
- 2 Name this instrument. Louis Armstrong played it.
Name the instrument
- 3 Name this singer. People called him 'The King'.
Name the singer
- 4 Name this sport. William Webb Ellis invented it.
Name the sport
- 5 Name this building. The President of the US lives there.
Name the building
- 6 Name this director. He made the Star Wars films.
Name the director
- 7 Name this decade. The Beatles became famous then.
Name the decade
- 8 Name this scientist. He discovered penicillin.
Name the scientist
- 9 Name this country. Its capital city is Helsinki.
Name the country

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Question words

When, where, why, how, which, whose, who, what

1 Some examples of questions with these words:

*Where are you going?
Which film are you going to see?
What did you do last weekend?*

2 To form questions with when, where, why and how, we use these patterns:

question word + auxiliary (do, have, etc.)
+ subject + verb

When does the film start?

question word + be + subject

When was the exam?

3 To form questions with which and whose, we use this pattern:

which/whose + noun + auxiliary/be

*Which course is he taking?
Whose coat is this?*

We can also use a noun with what, with the same meaning as which:

What/Which sports do you play?

4 To form questions with who, what, which and whose, we can use both of the patterns in 2:

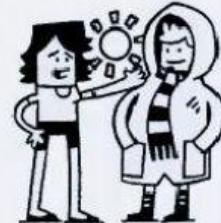
*Who do you live with?
What is your address?
Which restaurant do you prefer?
Whose books are these?*

(For more information on questions with who, what, which and whose, see unit 8 on p. 30.)

Grammar in action

1 We use when to ask about time and where to ask about places:

*When did you arrive here?
Where are my keys?*



2 We use why to ask for a reason:

Why are you wearing a coat?

3 We use how to ask about a process or a series of actions or events that produce a certain result. In this example, someone is asking what you do to make a certain meal:

How do you cook this dish?

4 We use which or what with a plural noun to ask someone to specify when there are a number of possibilities:

Which countries in Europe have you been to? ~ Italy, Spain, Germany, ...

We usually use which with a singular noun when we are asking someone to specify one thing from more than one possibility:

Which country in Europe have you been to the most? ~ Italy.



5 We use whose to ask who owns something:

Whose hat is this?

6 We use what to ask about things or actions and who to ask about people:

*What do you want to eat?
Who is that man over there?*

A The concert ticket

Complete the questions in this conversation by putting in the correct question words.

0 *What's* in this envelope? ~ A ticket.

1 *ticket* is it? ~ It's my ticket.

2 did you get a ticket for the concert? ~ I queued at the box office.
3 is the concert? ~ Next Friday.

4 are your seats? ~ At the back of the hall.

5 did you choose those seats? ~ Because it's going to be very loud.
6 are you going to the concert with? ~ Two of my friends.

7 friends are you going with? ~ Pete and Dave.

Decide whether the relative pronoun is correct or not.

1. The postman **which** works in this village is very old.

correct not correct

2. The egg **which** is in the nest is brown.

correct not correct

3. Where is the bed **who** was in the attic?

correct not correct

4. The bottles **that** are lying on the floor are green.

correct not correct

5. The cowboy **who** is wearing the red shirt is very funny.

correct not correct

Complete with who, which, where or whose. Put a tick in the sentences you can leave the word out.

1. What about the girl _____ I saw you with just now?

2. I know a café _____ you can get really good ice cream.

3. I work in a restaurant _____ owner is Italian.

4. I play an electric guitar _____ it has a volume control.

5. It's very different from the job _____ I had last summer.

Rewrite the sentences using a relative pronoun.

1. A very famous architect designed the building.

The architect _____ designed the building is very famous.

2. I was taught Italian by a very good teacher.

The teacher _____ taught me Italian was very good.