

**Relative Clauses** are divided into two groups:

**Defining:** no commas.

My brother who lives in Australia is here visiting

(This sentence indicates that I have other brothers not living in Australia)

**Non-defining:** commas

My brother, who lives in Australia, is here visiting

(This sentence indicates that I have only one brother and he lives in Australia)

## PRONOUNS (where, when, whose, which, who, whom, that)

### Where = in which

**Example:**

That is the pub **where** I forgot my purse = That is the pub **in which** I forgot my purse

**Complete:**

This is the hospital

I was born = This is the hospital

I was born

### When

**When** replaces a time adverb (the moment that, the day that, ...)

**Example:**

I remember **the day that** we met

= I remember the day **when** we met / I remember **when** we met

We can omit **when**. **Example:**

I remember **the day** we met

**Complete:**

That was the moment that I saw you = That was the moment

I saw you

That was

I saw you

= That was the

I saw you

### Whose

**Whose** replaces a possessive adjective (my, your, his, her, its, our, your, their).

**Example:**

That is the man. **His** ancestors are all doctors

= That is the man **whose** ancestors are all doctors.

**Complete:**

She is my neighbour.

children live abroad

= She is my neighbour,

children live abroad

## Who / that

**Who** or **That** refer to a person

### Example:

That was the man who spoke to me yesterday  
= That was the man that spoke to me yesterday

### Join these sentences (use **WHO** for the first example and **THAT** for the second):

I saw the thief. He broke into your house  
= I saw the thief who broke into your house  
= I saw the thief that broke into your house

I met the lady. She told me everything  
= I met the lady who told me everything  
= I met the lady that told me everything

We can omit **who** and **that** when they are not the subject

She is the lady who I saw = She is the lady that I saw  
He is the man who they employed = He is the man that they employed

## Which / that

**Which** or **That** refer to an animal, a concept, an object

### Example:

That was the dog which bit me!  
= That was the dog that bit me!

### Join these sentences (use **WHICH** for the first example and **THAT** for the second):

I bought the handbag. It cost €50  
= I bought the handbag which cost €50  
= I bought the handbag that cost €50

I found the letters. They were my mother's  
= I found the letters which were my mother's  
= I found the letters that were my mother's

We can omit **which** and **that** when they are not the subject

This is the cat which I saw in the garden = This is the cat that I saw in the garden  
That is the house which I love = That is the house that I love

## Whom

**Whom** refers to a person, and it is placed after a preposition.

We can omit it.

### Examples:

He is the man for whom I work (formal)  
= He is the man I work for (informal)  
They are the children with whom I used to play (formal)  
= They are the children I used to play with (informal)