



Relative Clauses



1 DEFINING RELATIVE CLAUSES	2 NON-DEFINING RELATIVE CLAUSES
Defining relative clauses tell us some essential information about the things or people they refer to: The picture that hangs next to Margaret's portrait is the one I like best. If we remove the words that hangs next to Margaret's portrait we don't know which picture Jasper is talking about.	Non-defining relative clauses tell us some extra information about the things or people they refer to: The next painting shows Edmund's wife Margaret, who he married in 1605. If we remove the words who he married in 1605, we still know who Jasper is talking about. It is Edmund's wife, Margaret.
Defining relative clauses: • may begin with the relative pronouns who (for people), which (for things), that (for things and people). • may have who, which or that as the subject or object of the relative clause: ... the picture which / that hangs next to Margaret's portrait ... (which/that is the subject of the relative clause) ... the woman who / that he married ... (who/that is the object of the relative clause, and he is the subject) • very often omit the relative pronoun when it is the object of the relative clause: The painting we're looking at now ... or The painting which / that we're looking at now ... • are never separated from the rest of the sentence by commas. • are used in writing and speaking.	Non-defining relative clauses: • always begin with the relative pronouns who (for people) and which (for things). • may have who or which (but never that) as the subject or object of the relative clause: The building which is very old, costs a lot of money to repair. (not that is very old) The castle's owner, who we've just seen, enjoys meeting visitors. (not that we've just seen) • never omit the relative pronoun. • must be separated from the rest of the sentence by commas. • are more common in writing than in speaking.
We always omit the object pronoun (her, him, it, etc.) when we make a relative clause: We know little about the woman that he married. (not the woman that he married her) The next painting shows Edmund's wife Margaret, who he married in 1605. (not who he married her in 1605)	
RELATIVE PRONOUNS AND PREPOSITIONS	
Both defining and non-defining relative clauses:	

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- can begin with whose (instead of his /her/ their), when (for times) and where (for places):

William, **whose wife Jane was a famous beauty**, had nine children.

Here they are in this picture from the year **when the youngest was born**.

This has been my family home, **where we've lived for over four hundred years**, since the time of Edmund Claremont.

- can begin with whom (for people) as the object of a clause (this is mainly in written English, and is increasingly rare):

His girlfriend, **whom he neglected**, became very depressed.

- usually have any prepositions at the end of the clause:

It's the one **which he was captain of** during a famous naval victory.

The girl he fell in love **with** was extremely tall.

Peter, **who my father used to work with**, has become a government minister.

- in formal English, sometimes have a preposition at the beginning of the clause, followed by which (for things) or whom (for people):

It's the one **of which** he was captain during a famous naval victory.

The girl **with whom** he fell in love was extremely tall.

Peter, **with whom** my father used to work, has become a government minister.

We cannot use that after a preposition in a relative clause:

The Conference Room, **in which** the meeting was held, was not really big enough. (~~not in that the that meeting was held~~)

A defining relative clause can:

- begin with why, after the words the reason:

This victory was the reason **why he became a national hero**.

- omit why and when:

That was the reason we went there. (= That was the reason **why** we went there.)

I remember the day I met you. (= I remember the day **when** I met you.)

PRACTICE BANK

A. Combine each pair by making the second sentence into a non defining relative clause:

1. She enjoyed that film very much. They don't often go to the cinema.

2. Sam caused a fight in the club. His girlfriend had left him.

3. The physics exam was quite easy. We had been worrying about it.

4. My vehicle has been stolen. I only got it last month.

5. My aunt's cottage has been damaged by floods. We usually spend our holidays there.

6. My best friend loves vanilla ice cream. She is very funny.

7. During the spring there are lots of people here. Everyone comes to this town on holidays.

"Doing ordinary things in an extraordinary way" 89

B. In eight of these sentences there is a mistake. Underline the mistakes and write the correction:

1. Do you remember the name of the place in that the revolution started?
_____.
2. The principal, whose name is Sullivan, gave a very motivational speech.
_____.
3. My smallest suitcase, that had all my clothes in, was lost at the station.
_____.
4. The company for whom my sister worked had recently closed.
_____.
5. The friend I want to introduce you to him is in France.
_____.
6. The region, where we go for our holidays, is becoming very popular.
_____.
7. I'm looking for the book you lent me last year.
_____.
8. Is that the girl which you were talking about?
_____.
9. Have you seen the notebook that I kept my notes in?
_____.
10. My right ankle which I broke last Saturday last summer is still giving me trouble.
_____.

C. Fill the gaps in this letter using who or which when necessary. If no word is necessary, write ----- .

Dear Mr Bennet,

I have a number of complaints about the work 1 _____ your enterprise did in my building last week.
You promised that the men 2 _____ carried out the work would arrive by 9. 00. As you know, I have to catch the train 3 _____ leaves at 9.15. On four days your men arrived after nine, so I missed my train and my boss 4 _____ is very strict, was very annoyed. The foreman lost the written instructions 5 _____ I have him. The paint 6 _____ he used for the hall was the one 7 _____ should have been used in my bedroom. The sitting room wallpaper, 8 _____ I had chosen with great care, was the wrong way up. My bathroom 9 _____ You and I agreed did not need redecorating, has been painted.
If you do not promise to put right the mistakes 10 _____ your men have made within two weeks, I will go to my lawyer.

Yours sincerely,

George Bellamy

D. Use the relative pronouns from the box to match the sentence halves and make full sentences. Use each relative pronoun once.

that	who	when	whose	where	whom
			which		
1. He lived in Ohio _____					
2. The person to _____					
3. The company he founded _____					
4. Thomas Edison _____					
5. This was a period _____					
6. One nineteenth century inventor _____					
a) Thomas Edison and Charles Hall, the inventor of aluminum. Were also born.					
b) Charles Hall sold the patent for aluminum made a fortune from it.					
c) is called Alcoa, is still in business today.					
d) has had a particularly important impact on human existence.					
e) inventions are less well known than Edison's is Granville Woods.					
f) invented the electric light bulb, lived from 1847 to 1931.					
g) many inventors were extremely active.					

E. Choose the correct sentence from each pair:

1. a) The laptops, two of them belonged to my classmates, were taken from the class.	
b) The laptops, two of which belonged to my classmates, were taken from the class.	
2. a) My friend that wants to meet you is coming in a few minutes.	
b) My friend which wants to meet you is coming in a few minutes.	
3. a) This expensive hat that I only bought a few days ago, has a hole.	
b) This expensive hat which I only bought a few days ago, has a hole.	
4. a) She is looking for the wallet she lost yesterday.	
b) She is looking for the wallet that she lost yesterday.	
5. a) Have you ever been back to the town where you were born in?	
b) Have you ever been back to the town where you were born?	
6. a) Is that the movie you were talking about?	
b) Is that the movie you were talking about it?	

F. Complete the sentences with the phrases from the box:

one of which	neither of which	most of which	none of whom
		all of whom	
1. The thieves took my bike and my brother's _____ were insured.			
2. The three students, _____ spoke English, had travelled all over United States.			
3. We bought several movies, _____ we had to return as it didn't work.			
4. The company was founded by four brothers, _____ became millionaires.			
5. The in-flight entertainment consisted of many famous films _____ had subtitles.			

G. Combine the sentences to make new items. Make the sentences in brackets into a relative clause with who or which.

1. An old man now wants to swim the French Channel. (He did a parachute jump)

2. A man has gone to prison. (He kidnapped a politician)

3. An earthquake caused a lot of damage. (It occurred in this morning)

4. A doctor has won the Nobel Prize. (He discovered life in another planet)

5. A baseball player had been banned from playing again. (He took drugs)

6. A company has laid off hundreds of workers. (It owns Glass Class Supermarkets)

H. Join the two sentences together, making the second sentence defining relative clause. Use the relative pronoun that is most commonly used or no pronoun at all where this is possible.

1. The sports club is a few blocks down the street. It is very expensive.

2. People often have very little money to spend on leisure. They have a lot of leisure time.

3. This is the job. Sarah's always wanted it.

4. Is Glass Class the company? My cousin works for them.

5. Is she the new radio presenter? Everyone is talking about her.

6. Mary is coming back to work soon. I'm doing her job.

7. You can buy pizza from the Italian Shop. It has just opened two months ago.

8. She is the one. I told you about her.

9. My brother loves books. They make him think about a lot of things.

10. I'm looking for the person. I have his documents.

11. Most of the books are still popular today. I read them as a child.

12. My favourite holiday was that one. We spend one month at the island.

13. We've just bought a new book. It teaches you how to play the guitar.

14. We haven't seen Louise for fifteen years. He is coming to visit us next month.

I. Rewrite the sentences making the second sentence into a non defining relative clause and putting it into the correct place:

1. The new manager seems to be a very capable person. I met him before coming here.
_____.
2. Karen just got a new job with North Grass Company. It's bigger than the last one she worked for. _____.
3. Their house needs a lot of work doing to it. It's on the top of the mountain.
_____.
4. When I was in town, I met the famous actress. She was shopping new clothes.
_____.
5. The Economy Department has approved a new law. Mr Clapton is in charge of this department. _____.
6. His latest novel is very good. I read it on holidays.
_____.
7. The famous Videogames Company has just gone bankrupt. We have done business with them for ten years. _____.
8. This case is full of books. I carried it all the way from the airport.
_____.
9. Our president is suspected of being involved in a financial scandal. The opposition have accused the president of lying. _____.
10. The new government is now facing major problems. It came to power with a lot of public support. _____.
11. The prisoners are requesting better cell conditions. Their families are campaigning on their behalf. _____.
12. The singer could hardly sing last night due to a sore throat. He normally has a very powerful voice. _____.
13. Our manager is planning a new advertising campaign. We support his ideas.
_____.