

Defining and non-defining relative clauses

Exercise. Relative clauses: defining or non-defining?

Study the situations and then decide whether the following relative clauses are defining or non-defining.

defining – no commas

non-defining – commas

- 1) I have three brothers.
 - My brother who lives in Sidney came to see me last month.
 - My brother, who lives in Sidney, came to see me last month.
- 2) I have one sister.
 - My sister who is 25 years old spent her holiday in France.
 - My sister, who is 25 years old, spent her holiday in France.
- 3) Bob's mum has lost her keys.
 - Bob's mum who is a musician has lost her car keys.
 - Bob's mum, who is a musician, has lost her car keys.
- 4) My friend Jane moved to Canada.
 - My friend Jane whose husband is Canadian moved to Canada last week.
 - My friend Jane, whose husband is Canadian, moved to Canada last week.
- 5) I am a shoe fanatic.
 - The shoes which I bought yesterday are very comfortable.
 - The shoes, which I bought yesterday, are very comfortable.
- 6) Mr Robinson is very famous.
 - Mr Robinson whom I met at the trade fair is a famous inventor.
 - Mr Robinson, whom I met at the trade fair, is a famous inventor.
- 7) Tamara has two cats. Both of them are black.
 - Tamara's two cats which can play outside are black.
 - Tamara's two cats, which can play outside, are black.
- 8) Kevin has four cats. Two of them are black.
 - Kevin's two cats which are black can play outside.
 - Kevin's two cats, which are black, can play outside.
- 9) We are on holiday. Yesterday we visited a church.
 - The church which we visited yesterday is very old.
 - The church, which we visited yesterday, is very old.
- 10) We are on holiday. Yesterday we visited a church.
 - St. Mary's Church which we visited yesterday is very old.
 - St. Mary's Church, which we visited yesterday, is very old.