

Relative Pronouns

Relative clauses

Defining relative clauses are used to specify which person or thing we mean.

Who or **that** are used for people. **Which** or **that** are used for things.

We don't use commas in a defining relative clause.

Non-defining relative clauses (extra information clauses) are used to add extra information to a sentence.

We use commas in a non-defining relative clause.

Who is used for people.

Which is used for things.

That cannot be used.

*I have a friend **who** / **that** speaks five languages.*

*She showed me the coat **which** / **that** she had bought.*

*Mr. Fry, **who** speaks five languages, works as a translator for the EU.*
~~Mr Fry, **that** speaks five languages, works as a translator for the EU.~~

*The area, **which** has very high unemployment, is in the north of the country.*

~~The area, **that** has very high unemployment, is in the north of the country.~~

Relative pronouns

We can use **who** or **that** when we talk about people.

Who is more formal than **that**.

*This is the **man who** helped us. (more formal)*

*This is the **man that** helped us. (less formal)*

We **don't** use **what**:

~~This is the man **what** helped us.~~

We use **which** or **that** when we talk about things (but not people).

*It's the watch **which** my husband bought me for my birthday. (more formal)*

<p>Which is more formal than that.</p>	<p><i>It's the watch that my husband bought me for my birthday. (less formal)</i></p>
<p>In informal speech, we can omit which and that when the pronoun refers to the object of the sentence.</p>	<p><i>It's the watch my husband bought me for my birthday.</i></p> <p>In this sentence, 'the watch' is the object of the verb <i>bought</i> so we don't need to use <i>that</i> or <i>which</i>.</p>
<p>We cannot omit which and that when the pronoun refers to the subject of the sentence.</p>	<p><i>It was the man that sold me the car.</i></p> <p>In this sentence, 'the man' is the subject of the verb <i>sold</i> so we need to use <i>that</i> or <i>who</i>.</p> <p><i>It was the man sold me the car.</i></p>
<p>We use whose to show possession.</p>	<p><i>John, whose brother was also a musician, plays over 100 concerts every year.</i></p>
<p>We use where when the pronoun refers to a place.</p>	<p><i>The restaurant where we met was downtown.</i></p>
<p>We use when when the pronoun refers to a time.</p>	<p><i>I can meet you tomorrow when I'll be free.</i></p>

Complete the sentences with a relative pronoun. Sometimes more than an answer is possible.

that – which – who – whose – where – when

1. I don't know _____ is the man standing at the front door.
2. John lives in a town _____ he works.
3. John lives in a town _____ is near the ocean.
4. I love spring _____ the birds sing songs.
5. That's the woman _____ daughter I love very much.
6. The flat _____ my sister rented last year is really nice.
7. Dictionaries are books _____ are very useful for me.

8. Oscar met an old friend _____ was at primary school 20 years ago.

9. The salesclerk was talking to a customer _____ was very furious.

10. George was the tour guide _____ showed me the National Gallery.

11. Rose bought a carpet _____ was made in Turkey.

12. A vegetarian is someone _____ never eats meat.

13. The woman _____ called yesterday wasn't very kind.

14. The red car, _____ David drove last Summer, was German.

15. Ireland is a country _____ I always wanted to visit.

16. Yolanda is reading a book _____ is about the power of mind.

17. They didn't like the movie _____ they borrowed from Susie.

18. The movie, _____ they borrowed from Susie, talks about a family.

19. A mechanic is a person _____ repairs cars and trucks.

20. Alex found a job in a company _____ builds planes.

21. The soccer player _____ scored the goal was Italian.

22. Paul is the neighbor _____ son is very friendly.

23. Alice travelled to India _____ she visited nice places.

24. All my personal documents, _____ were in the suitcase, were stolen.

25. My bike, _____ has a broken seat, is in the garage.

26. London Bridge is one of the most popular places _____ people want to go.

27. London Bridge is one of the most popular places _____ people want to visit.

28. The people, _____ were stopped at the border were all from Eastern Europe.

29. He is the consultant _____ advice I rely on.

30. This is Mary, _____ is taking over my job when I leave.

31. The teacher, _____ comes from Scotland, gives Math classes.

32. The photocopier, _____ has a two-year guarantee, costs \$2000.

33. The day _____ the concert takes place is Saturday.

34. He is the one _____ the award should be given to.

35. The President of the company, _____ I really admire, is visiting us next week.