



## RELATIVE CLAUSES

### What is a relative clause?

A relative clause is one kind of dependent clause. It has a subject and verb, but can't stand alone as a sentence. It is sometimes called an "adjective clause" because it functions like an adjective—it gives more information about a noun. A relative clause always begins with a "relative pronoun," which substitutes for a noun, a noun phrase, or a pronoun when sentences are combined.

The relative pronouns are:

|       |                      |  |
|-------|----------------------|--|
| who   | for people           | can substitute for subject nouns/pronouns (he, she, we, they)  |
| whom  | for people           | can substitute for object nouns/pronouns (him, her, us, them)  |
| whose | for people           | can substitute for possessive nouns/pronouns (his, hers, our, their)   |
| that  | for people or things | can be either subject or object<br>can only be used in restrictive relative clauses (see below)  |
| which | for things           | can be either subject or object<br>can be used in non-restrictive relative clauses<br>can also be used in restrictive relative clauses, though some people don't like this use |

### Relative pronoun as subject (in red):

I like the person. **The person** was nice to me.

I like the person **who** was nice to me.

I hate the dog. **The dog** bit me.

I hate the dog **that** bit me.

I am moving to Louisville, KY. **It** is home to the Muhammad Ali Museum.

I am moving to Louisville, KY, **which** is home to the Muhammad Ali Museum.

### Relative pronoun as object (in red):

I like the bike. My father gave me **the bike**.

I like the bike **that** my father gave me.

### Read the following text and develop the exercises.

#### San Francisco

The area had long been inhabited by native Americans, the Ohlone (meaning "people of the west") before the first Spanish immigrants came to settle in this part of the country. After the Mexican-American War, the small town became American territory, and when the California gold rush started in 1848, the population increased enormously. Nowadays San Francisco is famous especially for its cable car and the Golden Gate Bridge.

#### Golden Gate Bridge

The Golden Gate Bridge connects the city of San Francisco and San Francisco Peninsula. It spans the Golden Gate, a strait between the Pacific Ocean and the San Francisco Bay—that's where the name Golden Gate Bridge comes from.

Construction on the bridge began in 1933 and was completed in 1937. The bridge rises 230 m above the water. With its total length of 1970 meters it was the longest suspension bridge in the world until 1964. The bridge is part of the United States Highway 101, has six lanes and a footpath on each side.

#### Exercise

Read the text again and complete the sentences according to the text.

1. San Francisco was inhabited by the Ohlone
  - a. that gave the famous bridge its name
  - b. who wanted to find gold
  - c. that connects San Francisco and San Francisco Peninsula
  - d. who are a native American tribe
  - e. who drive on the United States Highway 101
2. In the 19th century there were many people in San Francisco
  - a. that gave the famous bridge its name
  - b. who wanted to find gold
  - c. that connects San Francisco and San Francisco Peninsula
  - d. who are a native American tribe
  - e. who drive on the United States Highway 101

3. There is a bridge
  - a. that gave the famous bridge its name
  - b. who wanted to find gold
  - c. that connects San Francisco and San Francisco Peninsula
  - d. who are a native American tribe
  - e. who drive on the United States Highway 101
4. The bridge is used by people
  - a. that gave the famous bridge its name
  - b. who wanted to find gold
  - c. that connects San Francisco and San Francisco Peninsula
  - d. who are a native American tribe
  - e. who drive on the United States Highway 101
5. There is a strait called Golden Gate
  - a. that gave the famous bridge its name
  - b. who wanted to find gold
  - c. that connects San Francisco and San Francisco Peninsula
  - d. who are a native American tribe
  - e. who drive on the United States Highway 101

### Relative Clauses - Formation

Complete the sentences using relative clauses. Use **who** and **which**. 1 is the example.

1. A Scot is a person (live in Scotland) who lives in Scotland.
2. Nessie is a monster (live in Loch Ness) \_\_\_\_\_
3. A fridge is a thing (keep food cool) \_\_\_\_\_
4. A DJ is someone (play music in a disco) \_\_\_\_\_
5. A bee is an insect (make honey) \_\_\_\_\_
6. A lemon is a fruit (be yellow and sour) \_\_\_\_\_
7. A watch is a thing (tell the time) \_\_\_\_\_
8. A ferry is a ship (carry people across the water) \_\_\_\_\_
9. A shop assistant is someone (work in a shop) \_\_\_\_\_
10. A key is a thing (can open and lock doors) \_\_\_\_\_