

Defining relative clauses 1

a) Study these examples and class notes:

We use personal pronouns to avoid repeating information:

I have a dog. **My dog** is very big.

I have a dog. **It** is very big.

We use relative pronouns (who, which, that, whose) and relative adverbs (where, when) to replace a personal pronoun and join two sentences into one with a relative clause:

I have a dog. **It** is very big.

I have a dog **which** is very big.

The relative pronoun usually appears right after its antecedent (the person, thing, place... that it refers to):

I have **a dog which** is very big.

I know **a woman who** can play three instruments.

This is **something that** I have never told anyone.

I know **a place where** they serve great food.

That was **the year when** I started studying at university.

There's **a man whose wife** has just had a baby. (the man's wife)

"Whom" is an object pronoun that is used instead of "who" (especially in formal English). In relative clauses it is often omitted, unless it comes after a comma or a preposition:

She's **the woman about whom** I have told you.

= She's **the woman** (that) I have told you **about**.

b) Study the examples above and choose the correct relative:

that when where which who whom whose

We use _____ to refer to things and animals.

We use _____ to refer to people or things.

We use _____ or _____ to refer to a person.

We use _____ to refer to specific moments.

We use _____ to refer to places.

We use _____ to refer to someone's belongings or relatives.

c) To learn how to rephrase two sentences as a single one with a relative clause, study the class notes below and do the exercises:

1 If the common element in both sentences is at the end of a sentence and at the beginning of the other, just replace it in the second sentence with a relative pronoun:

I have a dog. It is very big.

Od S

I have a dog which is very big.

S

└──────────────────┘
Od

You may have to invert the order of the sentences:

A man has been arrested. The police are questioning him.

S

Od

The police are questioning the man who has been arrested.

S

└──────────────────┘
Od

d) Now join these sentences with a relative clause. Sometimes more than one answer are possible:

1. I have bought a new mobile. It has cost me a hundred pounds.

2. The man has a black briefcase. I need to talk to him.

3. I want to show my parents a car. I hope they will buy it.

4. We have some oranges. They are not too sour.

e) Now check your answers and correct them if necessary.

1.

2.

3.

4.

f) Now read these class notes:

2 If the relative adverb is **where**, it usually replaces **here** or **there**:

They found him **on a beach**. There were a lot of people **there**.
They found him **on a beach where** there were a lot of people.

If the relative adverb is **when**, it usually replaces **then**:

They found him **one day**. It was very sunny **then**.
They found him **one day when** it was very sunny.

g) Now join these sentences with a relative clause.

1. This is the place. The terrorists hid their bomb here.

2. That was the year. They went on their honeymoon then.

3. That's the street. There was a car accident there yesterday.

h) Now check your answers and correct them if necessary.

1.

2.

3.

i) Now read these class notes:

3 If the common element is at the end of a sentence and in the middle of the other, insert one sentence into the other so that the relative is right after its antecedent:

They found a man on the beach. The man looked injured.
Od S

They found a man who looked injured on the beach.
S
Od

Or:

The man (whom) they found on the beach looked injured.
Od
S

j) Now join these sentences with a relative clause. Sometimes more than one answer are possible:

1. I have to tell you something. You will find it very interesting.

2. The man lives next to me. He has won the lottery.

3. I need someone to help me. I need someone strong.

4. I have met a girl. Her eyes are totally black.

5. The ship had been attacked by pirates. They interviewed its captain.

6. We visited an island. They once found a treasure on it.

7. It is a quiet time of the year. There aren't a lot of tourists now.
