

GRAMMAR

Part 1: Defining relative clauses

A relative clause can define or identify the thing or person introduced in the main clause. It comes immediately after the person or thing it is describing.

A cheetah is an animal that can run 100 kilometers an hour.

The woman who does my hair is named Marcia.

The relative pronoun (that, which, who) becomes the subject of the verb in the relative clause.

You use that (or which) for things, and who (or that) for people.

subject verb

People who come from Rio de Janeiro are called Cariocas.

subject verb

A diner is a place that serves food.

◆ Relative pronouns (who, which, whose, that) introduce relative clauses. We use relative clauses to identify the noun in the main clause.
e.g. *The man who owns the shop is French.*

relative clause

(The relative clause identifies which man we are talking about.)

1 Use "that" to combine these sentences.

- a I've got a dog. It likes going for long walks. *I've got a dog that likes going for long walks.*
- b I've got a car. It isn't very easy to park.
- c I've got a sister. She works in a store.
- d I've got an espresso machine. It makes great coffee.
- e I've got a friend. He lives in Panama.
- f I've got some shoes. They are too small for me.

2 Identify the mistake. Write the unnecessary word in the box, then match them with the words (1-6)

- a a person who ~~she~~ treats sick animals ~~she~~
- b the only animal – apart from humans – which it gets sunburn
- c a word to describe people who they are afraid of spiders
- d a person who ~~he~~ studies birds
- e the scientist who ~~he~~ developed the theory of evolution
- f the largest animal that it has ever lived

1 arachnophobic	c
2 an ornithologist	
3 a vet	
4 Charles Darwin	
5 a pig	
6 a blue whale	

3 Complete the sentences with who or which.

- a The blind man who lives next door has a guide dog.
- b Those shoes are made from leather which comes from cows.
- c He gets honey from his friend which is a beekeeper.
- d She won't buy lipstick which has been tested on animals.
- e A zoologist is a person which studies animals.
- f This is the vet who saved my cat's life.
- g Do you see the ostrich which is sitting on its nest?

4 Complete the sentences with a relative pronoun

(who or that). Only use that when who is not possible.

- a The people who live in the Serbian town of Odzaci were amazed when it began raining frogs one day.
- b A Mexican woman which lost her cell phone called the number and heard it ringing inside her dog's stomach.
- c Scientists have found that chickens which watch TV lay more eggs.
- d A man from New York went to his bathroom and found a baby alligator which was swimming in his toilet.
- e Penguins often fall over when they try to watch airplanes which are flying above their heads.

5 Write sentences that define the underlined words. Use the information in parentheses.

- a Most of the people speak perfect English. (They work with me.)
Most of the people who work with me speak perfect English.
- b People make me angry. (They complain all the time.)
- c I've met lots of people. (They have the same name as me.)
- d We should ban cars. (They use too much gas.)
- e I think ictionaries are useless. (They don't give good examples.)
- f The family has a dog and a cat. (They live next door.)