Relative clauses

We use relative clauses to **tell more** about people or things **in one sentence**.

We join the relative clause to its referent using a **relative pronoun**. These are:
WHO – to refer to people **WHICH** – to refer to things
WHOSE – to refer to people or things expressing ownership (possession)
THAT – to refer to people or things (can substitute 'who' or 'which')
WHERE – to refer to places **WHEN** – to refer to time

There are two kinds of relative clauses. The second type is formal (use in writing):
1. **Defining** relative clauses – they specify the person or thing that we refer to.
we can use 'that' (inf.) instead of 'who' or 'which'.
we can leave out the pronoun if it's not the subject.
Example: Ragnar was a king that ruled Sweden in the 9th century.

2. **Non-defining** relative clauses – they just add extra information, not necessary.
we separate it using commas
we cannot use 'that'.
we cannot leave out the pronoun.
Example: Ragnar, who was a Viking, tried to conquer England.

We can identify and separate two simple sentences within each of the examples:
Ragnar was a king. This king ruled Sweden in the 9th century.
Ragnar tried to conquer England. He was a Viking.
To join these sentences, we substitute the information that repeats in the second sentence with the relative pronoun and we join it to its referent.

Combine these pairs of sentences using DEFINING relative clauses:

1. That's the girl. She talked to me yesterday. _____
2. We stayed in a hotel. It was very expensive. _____
3. That's the building. I work there. _____
4. That's the boy. His mother works in the post office. _____
5. The car was a BMW. It was a stolen. _____
6. What's the name of the book? You want me to read it. _____
7. France is a country. It has an interesting history. _____

Combine these pairs of sentences using NON-DEFINING relative clauses:

1. Mr Mason will be your assistant. He has come to Madrid this year.
_____
2. This was Picaso's favourite restaurant. He celebrated his birthdays here. [use 'where']
_____
3. Yesterday I called my friend Julie. She lives in New Jersey.
_____
4. Last week I bought a new computer. I don't like it now.
_____
5. My boss is very nice. She lives near the school.
_____
6. My bicycle is falling apart. I've had it for more than ten years.
_____
7. My mother's house is very small. I grew up in it.
_____