



Presentation

Defining relative clauses

Use defining relative clauses to say exactly which person, thing, place or time we are talking about.

*The house **which is in the photo** was the home of William Shakespeare.*

*He was the playwright **who wrote Rome and Juliet**.*

*The town **where he lived** is called Stratford Upon Avon*

Relative pronouns and relative adverbs

Use *which* for things, *who* for people and *that* for things and people.

Use *whose* for possessions, *where* for place and *when* for time.

Omitting the relative pronoun (*which, who, that*)

Subject of the relative clause

You always have to use the relative pronoun *which, who* or *that* when it is the subject of the defining relative clause (i.e. when it is followed by the verb).

*Stratford-upon-Avon is famous because of the playwright **who** lived there.*

(don't say ~~because of the playwright lived there.~~)

Object of the defining relative clause

You don't have to use a relative pronoun (*who, which, that*) when it is the object of the relative clause (i.e. when it is followed by a noun or pronoun).

*This is one of the three pictures **which we** have of Shakespeare.*

*or This is one of the three pictures **we** have of Shakespeare.*

Exercises

1 Combine the sentences using the words in brackets.

1 Picasso was an artist. He was able to paint in many different styles. (who)

Picasso was an artist who was able to paint in many different styles.

2 This is the house. My grandfather was born here. (where)

3 4th April is the date. People in the USA remember Martin Luther King. (when)

4 Elvis lived in a house. It was called Graceland. (that)

5 Midnight on 31st December is a special time. Many people let off fireworks. (when)

6 The card is from a friend. She lives in Italy. (who)

7 This is an art gallery. You can see lots of famous paintings. (where)

8 This is a country. It has four national languages. (which)

2 Cross out the relative pronoun where possible.

1 This is the school uniform ~~which~~ I wore as a child.

2 That's the same man ~~who~~ we talked to earlier.

3 She's the actress ~~that~~ was in that other film with Hugh Jackman.

4 Over there is the factory ~~which~~ is going to close down.

5 This tree is the first of many ~~which~~ we hope to plant around the town.

6 Aren't you the student ~~who~~ asked to change classes?

3 Add the missing relative pronoun (who, which, whose, where) to the sentences where necessary.

1 It isn't a book I've read. ✓

2 It isn't a book ^{which} interests me.

3 My grandfather is one of those people ~~never~~ seems to look older.

4 She's a TV presenter I can't stand watching!

5 *Gone with the Wind* is a film ~~lasts~~ for over four hours.

6 He's the man ~~bag~~ we found.

7 That's a nightclub ~~lots of~~ students like to go to on a Friday night.

8 The piano is an instrument I'd like to be able to play.