Relative clauses: DEFINING AND NON-DEFINING

Relative clauses give us **information** about the person or thing mentioned.

Defining relative clauses give us **ESSENTIAL information** about someone or something – information that we need in order to understand what or who is being referred to.

Non-defining relative clauses give us **EXTRA information** about someone or something. It isn't essential for understanding who or what we are talking about.

Warning:
The **relative pronouns** WHO, WHICH, and WHOSE can all be used in **non-defining relative clauses.** However, THAT is only used in **defining relative clauses.**

I. Choose whether the sentence includes a DEFINING or NON-DEFINING relative clause.

1. She is the one who kindly helped me with my shopping.
   A. Defining
   B. Non-defining

2. My brother, who lives in Boston, is an accountant.
   A. Defining
   B. Non-defining

3. The house he bought, which is in central London, is really beautiful.
   A. Defining
   B. Non-defining

4. Can I buy the dress that's displayed in the window?
   A. Defining
   B. Non-defining

5. Anne, whose sister is also a friend of mine, is going to join us for dinner.
   A. Defining
   B. Non-defining

6. Paris is the city where I grew up.
   A. Defining
   B. Non-defining

7. The play that my friend was in was a bit boring.
   A. Defining
   B. Non-defining

8. My employers haven't given me my holiday pay yet, which really isn't fair.
   A. Defining
   B. Non-defining

9. They are the children whose father was arrested yesterday.
   A. Defining
   B. Non-defining

10. President Kennedy, whom I really admire, was assassinated in 1963.
   A. Defining
   B. Non-defining

II. Choose the correct relative pronoun to fill the gap.

1. The hotel, _____ is in the centre of the town, is to be knocked down and replaced by a bank.

   A. that
   B. which
   C. whose

2. The horse _____ was hit by the car was only slightly hurt.

   A. which
   B. who
   C. whose

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4. A hammer is a tool _____ is used to knock nails into wood.

A. that
B. who
C. whose

5. I didn't realize I had forgotten my passport until I reached the airport, _____ was very annoying.

A. that
B. whose
C. which

6. My friend, _____ doesn't have a cell phone, suddenly knocked on the door last night.

A. that
B. who
C. whose

7. The students _____ test grades were low had to come back after school for an extra lesson.

A. that
B. who
C. whose

8. The boy _____ dog was hit by a car has not been to school for 3 days,

A. which
B. who
C. whose

9. Do you know anyone _____ could help me fix my computer?

A. which
B. who
C. whose

10. Can you please return the calculator _____ you borrowed yesterday?

A. that
B. who
C. whose

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