



Relative Clauses



Relative clauses

We can give information about someone, something or somewhere by adding a relative clause.

We use a relative pronoun: who, which, whose, where or that:

- This is the living room which belongs to the smith's family.
relative clause

Which, who and that

We use "which" to join two ideas about a thing or things:

- Here's a picture. It shows them on their graduation day.
- Here's a picture which shows them on their graduation day.
- Not here's a picture which ~~it~~ shows them on their graduation day. (it = a photo)

We use "who" to join two ideas about a person or people:

- We have different presenters. They're experts.
- We have different presenters who are experts.
- Not we have different presenters who ~~they~~ are experts. (they = presenters)

We can use "that" instead of who or which:

- Here's a picture that shows them on their graduation day.
- We have different presenters that are experts.

No relative pronoun

Sometimes the verb in the relative clause has a new subject:

- You can see the café which tom owns. (the café is not the subject of owns)

We don't need to use "who" or "that" in the sentence above:

- You can see the café tom owns.

But we need "who" or "that" when there is no new subject.

Compare:

- They choose the headline (which/that) the newsreader will read first. (new subject: the newsreader)
- They choose the stories which will be in the news. (no new subject)
- Here's a soccer player (who) you'll recognise. (new subject: you)
- Here's a soccer player who played for Argentina. (no new subject)

Where and whose

We use "where" to join two ideas about a place. It means **at/in which**. It cannot be left out or replaced by "that":

- Here's the desk where the writer sits. (not ~~where the writer sits at~~)
(= here's the desk. The writer sits at that desk.)

We use "whose" with a noun to mean his/her/their/its. It cannot be left out or replaced by that:

- Jake's the man whose old boots were sold. (= Jake's the man + his old boots were sold.)

GRAMMAR BANK

A. Join these pairs of sentences with “who” or “which”.

1. I've got a silver necklace. It belonged to my grandmother.
2. My sister has a beautiful fur coat. It costs \$2000.
3. I have a pen friend. He lives in Syria.
4. This is my computer. It doesn't work.
5. Those are the champions. They won a competition last Saturday.
6. My brother told me about his girlfriend. She worked at the cinema.
7. I have this cute puppy. Its name is Bobby.
8. Jenna has a date in the park. It is by the stadium.
9. Aaron likes my new hairstyle. I had it changed last Monday.
10. I want that motorbike. It is very fast.

B. Read these sentences. Decide which ones don't need “who”, “which”, or “that” and cross it out.

1. Cecilia is the teacher who we invited to tea.
2. Here's the magazine which I promised to lend you.
3. Why did you change the plan that we made together?
4. That's the hotel which has the best rooms in all the cities.
5. Where's the bunch of flowers that you bought yesterday?
6. Elise wrote to the university that accepted me.
7. This is the letter that caused all their problems.
8. I emailed all the people who my boss wanted to fire.
9. Tony is the man who won the science prize.

C. Complete these sentences with "who", "which", "whose" or "where".

1. I met a man _____ plays soccer for Italy.
2. This is the library _____ I often read.
3. That's the man _____ won the World Cup.
4. That's the girl _____ my brother is going to marry.
5. We lost the picture _____ you drew for us.
6. Please show me the cupboard _____ you keep your biscuits.
7. Cindy opened the present _____ her best friend gave her.
8. Can you tell me the name of the man _____ car you borrowed?
9. Nadine painted the picture _____ hangs in our sitting-room.
10. I have a friend _____ lives in Barcelona.

D. Look at the sentences 1 – 10 again. In which sentences can you cross out the relative pronoun?

E. Read this conversation between Emma and her father. Fill in the gaps in the conversation with relative clauses using the information in the box.

Emma: Dad, I want to go away with some friends for Hernan's birthday party.

Dad: Who are these friends?

Emma: Manny, Alice, Barney, Andrew and Hernan. The party's at the beach house.

Dad: But I don't know these people. Who's Manny?

Emma: She's a girl (1) _____.

Dad: And who's Andrew?

Emma: Dad, you know Andrew. He's the boy (2) _____.

Dad: Oh yes. Well, who's Barney? I don't know him.

Emma: No, but, mom knows him. He's the boy (3) _____.

Dad: I see. And who is Alice?

Emma: She's the girl (4) _____. We're sharing a room at Summer Villa. Summer Villa's the guesthouse (5) _____.

Dad: And what's this beach house?

Emma: The beach house is the club (6) _____.

Dad: What's that parcel?

Emma: It's the present (7) _____.

Dad: And who's Hernan?

Emma: Oh dad! He's the boy (8) _____.

Dad: Oh I see. I suppose it's all right if your mother agrees.

F. Complete the sentences with the information in brackets.

1. (We met some people at the beach) The _____ were very nice.
2. (My mother bought me brown shoes) The brown shoes _____ are very comfortable.
3. (You're reading a book) What's the name of the _____?
4. (I wrote a letter to her) She didn't get the _____.
5. (Owen lend me his laptop) I've lost _____.
6. (My dad invited some people to dinner) The people _____ didn't come.
7. (He met a girl in a coffee house) Hey look! Isn't that _____?
8. (Alexia painted a canvas) I think that's _____.

G. Join these sentences using "who", "which" or "that".

1. She chose the books. She wanted to buy them.
2. I'm writing a book. I have to finish it today.
3. She is Carla. I often see her when I go to the shop.
4. He's an actor. He was nominated to many prizes.
5. It's a magazine. I bought it when I was a child.
6. She was wearing a red dress. She wears it for parties.
7. We ate the pizza. Mark made it.
8. I ate the fish. It was raw.
9. I bought a gold ring. It was quite expensive.
10. Nate failed the test. It is a very difficult test.



Past Perfect



Past perfect

We form the past perfect with had + past participle.

- + I/you/he/she/it/we/they had + past participle
- I/you/he/she/it/we/they had not (hadn't) + past participle
- ? Had I/you/he/she/it/we/they + past participle ... ?

- We'd eaten dinner.
- I hadn't eaten dinner.
- Had they eaten dinner?

We use the past perfect

- To talk about something that happened before a past event.

Last week I visited my hometown. It had changed a lot.



It had changed a lot. I visited my hometown.

Past perfect not past simple

We always use the past perfect, not the past simple with "already", "ever", "never" and "just" when we mean before a time in the past:

- They'd just started the year I left. (not ~~they just started the year I left~~)
- I had already decided to become an engineer. (not ~~I already decided~~)
- I'd never seen anything like it. (not ~~I never saw~~)

Already, ever, never and just go between the auxiliary and the main verb.

PRACTICE BANK

A. Complete this email by putting the verbs in brackets into the past perfect.

Hi Tommy:

Well, I'm home from Africa. The late flight from Paris caused some problems at first but the holiday was great.

Because (1) _____ (never/visit) that part of the world before (2) _____ (we/ask) the holiday company to book us seats on the bus to the city centre to meet the tour manager. Our plane was an hour late and we ran through the airport to the car park but when we arrived the bus (3) _____ (just/leave). We got a taxi to the main square and found the company's local office, but the staff (4) _____ (already/go) home for the day.

We (5) _____ (not/bring) our mobiles, because they don't work in that country.

At last we found a post office and luckily it (6) _____ (not/shut) yet, so we called the company's head office in Canada.

In ten minutes the tour manager was with us. He (7) _____ (go) to the airport to meet us, because he (8) _____ (realise) our plane was late, but we (9) _____ (not/see) him.

Anyway, he took us to the hotel he (10) _____ (book) for us and bought us dinner. So everything was fine in the end. And our trip to the jungle was amazing!! I'll show you the photos when I see you.

B. In each of these sentences, one of the verbs should be in the past perfect.
Underline the verb and write the correction at the end.

1. I wanted to have a shower when I got home. But my sister just had a bath and there wasn't any hot water. had just had.

2. The concert started when we got to the theatre, so we missed the first two songs.

3. I couldn't tell my teacher about the book because I never read it. _____

4. Linda didn't finish breakfast when I arrived, so I had a coffee while she ate her toast.

5. The children were very excited about flying because they were never in a plane.

6. Connor didn't know about the lesson, but the other students already knew it.

7. We just visited China so we told our friends some cool activities to do when they went there. _____

C. Choose the correct verb from the list below to complete the following sentences. Put the verb in the past perfect tense (had + past participle).

make start write leave forget fly escape close give ring eat change go
see

1. When I got to the house, Frank wasn't there. He _____ already _____.
2. I didn't recognise my old teacher because she _____ so much.
3. We were late for the play last night. By the time we got to the theatre, the movie _____ already _____.
4. Yesterday I went on my first plane trip. I was very nervous because I _____ never _____ before.
5. I couldn't eat much dinner last night because I _____ such a big lunch.
6. I couldn't buy any groceries last night because when I got to the supermarket, it _____ already _____.
7. Last week our teacher gave back the essays we _____ the week before.
8. The house was quiet when I got home. Everyone _____ to bed several hours earlier.
9. They got to school late yesterday. The bell _____ already _____.
10. Cheryl couldn't come to my house last night because she _____ already _____ other plans.

D. Complete the sentences below using the past perfect in the negative and words provided.

E.g. My house was very dirty when she came over because.... (I/not clean/ for weeks) → My house was very dirty when she came over because I hadn't cleaned it for weeks.

1. Joe had to study hard for yesterday's test because ... (he/not do well/ the week before).
2. I was worried when she didn't arrive on time because ... (she/ be kidnap/before).
3. Julie didn't want to go on the school ski trip because ... (she/not ski/ before).
4. I didn't recognize my old friend at the party because ... (I not/ see/ for years).
5. Didn't catch the bus because ... (he/not leave/ the house/ on time).
6. Andy ate a huge supper last night because ... (he/ not eat/ all day).
7. The farmer's fields were very dry because ... (it/ not rain/ for weeks).
8. Mary's hair looked terrible last night because ... (she/not wash/it).
9. Annie was exhausted yesterday because ... (she/work /all day).
10. I was so happy when I got to the cinema because ... (the movie/ not start/ yet).

E. Yesterday was Valentine's Day. Kimberly's boyfriend, Bryan, came for dinner at 5:00. This is Kimberly's schedule from yesterday.

Time	Activity
10:00	Clean the house
12:30	Buy groceries
2:00	Bake a cake
3:00	Cook a roast
4:00	Prepare the vegetables
4:30	Set the table
5:30	Make a salad
6:00	Choose some romantic music
6:30	Make a fire
7:00	Light the candles
7:30	Serve the meal

F. Make sentences with the past perfect tense to tell what Kimberly had already done when Bryan arrived and what she hadn't done yet.

E.g. When Bryan arrived, Kimberly had already cleaned the house.

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.
6.
7.
8.
9.
10.

G. Match the first part of the sentence on the left with the correct ending on the right.

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1. Jenny's plants died because...	A. She had lost her doll.
2. Josh couldn't buy the new computer because...	B. She had left her purse at home.
3. Sally couldn't fall asleep last night because...	C. He had already left the office.
4. The little girl was crying because...	D. He hadn't studied at all.
5. I didn't have to buy groceries because...	E. He had spent all his money.
6. Kevin failed his exam because...	F. She had forgotten to set the alarm.
7. Marty bought a new camera because...	G. She hadn't watered them.
8. Claire couldn't pay for lunch because...	H. He had watched a scary movie.
9. Sue slept late because ...	I. I had gone shopping the day before.
10. I couldn't speak to the boss because...	J. He had lost his old one.

H. Choose the past perfect or the past simple.

1. We had already eaten when Bella _____ (come) home.
2. Last year John _____ (pass) all his exams.
3. When I _____ (get) to the airport I discovered I had forgotten my passport and wallet.
4. I went to the library, then I _____ (buy) some milk and went home.
5. I opened my handbag to find that I _____ (forget) my credit card.
6. When we _____ (arrive) at the station, the train had already left.
7. We got home to find that someone _____ (break) into the house.
8. I opened the fridge to find someone _____ (eat) all the chocolate cake.
9. I had known my husband for three years when we _____ (get) married.
10. Julie was very pleased to see that John _____ (clean) the kitchen.