

FCE – Relative pronouns and relative clauses

A. Words like *who*, *where* or *why* are called **relative pronouns**. They help us connect ideas and build more complex sentences. Use the relative pronouns below to connect the following ideas:

WHOSE	WHY	WHOM	WHICH / THAT	WHEN	WHO / THAT	WHERE
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1. This is the girl lives next door to me.
2. That's the friend with she said she'd go on holiday.
3. That's the souvenir I bought from Spain.
4. That's the park I learnt how to ride a bike.
5. Tomorrow is the day I get to watch my favourite band in concert.
6. The reason they stole that document is still unknown.
7. The person dog got lost is my classmate.

B. Read the four sentences, then write a number and circle the correct option.

1. The person who you saw in the garden is Tom.
2. Tom, who used to be an actor, loves growing plants and flowers.
3. The Venus flytrap, which is a carnivorous plant, grows in North Carolina.
4. The Venus flytrap which I got last week has died.

Which clauses (1 – 4) give **essential** information, which we cannot remove from the sentence? and

Which clauses (1 – 4) give **extra** information, which we can remove from the sentence? and

If the information in the clause is **essential** and we cannot remove it,
we call it a **DEFINING / NON-DEFINING RELATIVE CLAUSE**.

If the information in the clause is **extra** and we can remove it,
we call it a **DEFINING / NON-DEFINING RELATIVE CLAUSE**.

C. Read the examples and use the following words to complete the rules about defining and non-defining relative clauses.

CAN	CAN'T	CAN BE OMITTED	CAN'T BE OMITTED	USE	DON'T USE
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Defining relative clauses	Non-defining relative clauses
The person <u>who</u> you saw in the garden is Tom.	Tom, <u>who</u> used to be an actor, loves growing plants.
The teacher <u>that / who</u> I liked most quit his job.	Mr. Rogers, <u>who</u> loved travelling, quit his job.
The book <u>(which)</u> I borrowed from the library is here.	This book, <u>which</u> I got on my last holiday, is really exciting.
→ <input type="text"/> commas	→ <input type="text"/> two commas
- WHO or WHICH <input type="text"/> be replaced by THAT	- WHO or WHICH <input type="text"/> be replaced by THAT
- WHO, WHICH or THAT <input type="text"/> *	- WHO, WHICH or THAT <input type="text"/>

* The only time when you cannot omit the relative pronoun in a defining relative clause is when it followed by a verb.

For example: The person WHO saw you in the garden is Tom. (~~The person saw you in the garden is Tom~~)