

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 |
|-------|-----|------|--------------|------|------------|-------|
|-------|-----|------|--------------|------|------------|-------|

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 |
|-----|-------|----------------|------------------|-----|-----------|

| Defining relative clauses | Non-defining relative clauses |
|--|--|
| <p>The person <u>who you saw in the garden</u> is Tom.</p> <p>The teacher <u>that / who I liked most</u> quit his job.</p> <p>The book <u>(which) I borrowed from the library</u> is here.</p> | <p>Tom, <u>who used to be an actor</u>, loves growing plants.</p> <p>Mr. Rogers, <u>who loved travelling</u>, quit his job.</p> <p>This book, <u>which I got on my last holiday</u>, is really exciting.</p> |
| → _____ commas | → _____ two commas |
| - WHO or WHICH _____ be replaced by THAT | - WHO or WHICH _____ be replaced by THAT |
| - WHO, WHICH or THAT _____ * | - WHO, WHICH or THAT _____ |

* 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~~)