

Relative Clauses: Defining & Non-defining

Difference between Defining and Non-Defining Relative Clauses

Defining Relative Clause:	Non-Defining Relative Clause:
Used to provide essential information.	Used to provide extra or non-essential information.
No commas are used.	Commas are used to separate the relative clause
Relative Clause cannot be omitted.	Relative Clause can be omitted.
Relative Pronouns in the Objective Case can be omitted.	No Relative Pronoun can be omitted.
‘That’ can be directly used. ‘That’ can replace who, whom and which.	‘That’ can’t be used. ‘Which’ can be used in place of ‘that’.
Example Sentences: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> My friend gave me his bike that/which has recently been purchased. <i>(There were two or more bikes and he gave me the one recently purchased.)</i> My brother who lives in Bangalore is a doctor <i>(I have more than one brother)</i> 	Example Sentences: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> My friend gave me his bike, which has recently been purchased. <i>(There was only one bike and he gave it to me.)</i> My brother, who lives in Bangalore, is a doctor. <i>(I have only one brother)</i>