

DEFINING RELATIVE CLAUSES

We use defining relative clauses to give essential information about someone or something – information that we need in order to understand what or who is being referred to. A defining relative clause usually comes immediately after the noun it describes.

Look at the following examples:

- ♣ They're the people **who** want to buy our house.
- ♣ Here are some cells **which** have been affected.
- ♣ They should give the money to somebody **who** they think needs the treatment most.

To form relative clauses we use relative pronouns:



Subject or object

The relative pronoun can define the subject or the object of the verb:

- ♣ They're the people **who/that bought our house**. (The people bought our house. The people is the subject.)
- ♣ They're the people **who/that she met at Jon's party**. (She met the people. The people is the object.)
- ♣ Here are some cells **which/that show abnormality**. (Some cells show abnormality. Some cells is the subject.)
- ♣ Here are some cells **which/that the researcher has identified**. (The researcher has identified some cells. Some cells is the object.)



Now, let's practise!



A. Fill in the gaps with the appropriate relative pronoun.

1. He is the singer _____ won three Grammys last year.
2. She's the supermodel _____ face appeared in the last music video.
3. That was the year _____ Billie Eilish's first song was released.
4. The album cover _____ she designed wasn't very successful.
5. The band _____ my sister used to follow on Instagram is from Korea.

B. Turn these pairs of sentences into one. Use relative pronouns.

1. This is the place. Elvis was born here.
2. A songwriter is a person. He/she writes songs
3. It was a terrible concert. I will never forget it.
4. She's the lady. She lent me her phone yesterday.