language focus

relative clauses

Look at the biographies on pages 12 and 13 of the Classbook and complete part A.

A

We use a relative clause to add information about a noun in the main clause.

We make relative clauses with the relative pronouns who, which and that.

We use _____ to add information about people.

Austen, _____ was the youngest of seven children, was born in 1775.

We use _____ or _____ to add information about things.

When he was two years old, he got an eye disease _____ made him blind.

She wrote in a small dressing room _____ had a creaking door.

The relative clause goes after the noun it adds information about.

He got an eye disease which made him blind.
noun relative clause

B

There are two types of relative clause.

1 Defining relative clauses

- are used to tell the reader exactly who or what is being talked about.
- are necessary to understand the meaning of a sentence.

She wrote fascinating descriptions which were about society and people.
(essential information to identify what she described)

2 Non-defining relative clauses.

- are used to give additional information which is not necessary to the meaning of the sentence.
- are punctuated with commas.

Jane Austen, who was a famous English author, wrote in the early 19th century.
(not necessary to the meaning of the sentence)

LIVEWORKSHEETS