

# 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)

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