

Left handers

Grammar: relative and participle clauses

1a Look at the examples from the article and answer the questions.

13th August is Left Handers' Day, a day when Left Handers everywhere can celebrate being left handed

The Left Handers' Club, who started the day, are keen to remind people that there certainly are some positive points.

1 Which example is a defining relative clause (a clause which says who or what we are talking about), and which a non-defining relative clause (a clause which gives extra information)?

2 What difference in punctuation is there between defining and non-defining relative clauses?

3 In which kind of relative clause can we use 'that' instead of 'who(m)' or 'which'?

1b Which word could be omitted in the following sentence? Why?

Why haven't you replied to any of the emails which I sent?

2a Look at the examples of reduced relative clauses from the article and add the 'missing' words to make them full relative clauses.

....to remind people of some of the difficulties faced by left handers.

.... in a world designed for right-handed people

2b Rewrite the following sentences using reduced relative clauses.

1. Cars that are left here after 11pm will be locked into the carpark.
2. The man who was driving the car was arrested.
3. The chair, which was made in France in the 14th Century, was undamaged.
4. Did you see the girl who was wearing the orange dress?
5. I can only eat food which is made without wheat.
6. The students who were taught by him all passed their exams.

LEFT HANDERS – READING LESSON

3 Look at the examples from the article where a present participle (in bold) has been used instead of a relative clause, and rewrite them using a relative clause. (Note that a present participle can replace present simple as well as present continuous)

...it may simply be the difficulties and dangers of living in a right-handed world, **leading** to more accidents.

The word sinister, **meaning** harmful or evil, comes from the Latin for left.

The left hand is often considered unclean, **making** life very difficult for those who would naturally use it to eat.