

GRAMMAR

Part 1: Defining relative clauses

A relative clause can define or identify the thing or person introduced in the main clause. It comes immediately after the person or thing it is describing.

A cheetah is an animal **that can run 100 kilometers an hour.**

The woman **who does my hair** is named Marcia.

The relative pronoun (*that, which, who*) becomes the subject of the verb in the relative clause.

You use *that* (or *which*) for things, and *who* (or *that*) for people.

subject verb

People **who come from Rio de Janeiro** are called Cariocas.

subject verb

A diner is a place **that serves food.**

◆ Relative pronouns (*who, which, whose, that*) introduce relative clauses. We use relative clauses to identify the noun in the main clause.

e.g. The man **who owns the shop** is French.

relative clause

(The relative clause identifies which man we are talking about.)

1 Use "that" to combine these sentences.

- I've got a dog. It likes going for long walks. **I've got a dog that likes going for long walks.**
- I've got a car. It isn't very easy to park.
- I've got a sister. She works in a store.
- I've got an espresso machine. It makes great coffee.
- I've got a friend. He lives in Panama.
- I've got some shoes. They are too small for me.

2 Identify the mistake. Write the unnecessary word in the box, then match them with the words (1-6)

- a person who ~~she~~ treats sick animals **she**
- the only animal – apart from humans – which it gets sunburn
- a word to describe people who they are afraid of spiders
- a person who he studies birds
- the scientist who he developed the theory of evolution
- the largest animal that it has ever lived

- 1 arachnophobic
- 2 an ornithologist
- 3 a vet
- 4 Charles Darwin
- 5 a pig
- 6 a blue whale

3 Complete the sentences with who or which.

- The blind man who lives next door has a guide dog.
- Those shoes are made from leather _____ comes from cows.
- He gets honey from his friend _____ is a beekeeper.
- She won't buy lipstick _____ has been tested on animals.
- A zoologist is a person _____ studies animals.
- This is the vet _____ saved my cat's life.
- Do you see the ostrich _____ is sitting on its nest?

4 Complete the sentences with a relative pronoun

(who or that). Only use that when who is not possible.

- The people who live in the Serbian town of Odzaci were amazed when it began raining frogs one day.
- A Mexican woman _____ lost her cell phone called the number and heard it ringing inside her dog's stomach.
- Scientists have found that chickens _____ watch TV lay more eggs.
- A man from New York went to his bathroom and found a baby alligator _____ was swimming in his toilet.
- Penguins often fall over when they try to watch airplanes _____ are flying above their heads.

5 Write sentences that define the underlined words. Use the information in parentheses.

- Most of the people speak perfect English. (They work with me.)
Most of the people who work with me speak perfect English.
- People make me angry. (They complain all the time.)
- I've met lots of people. (They have the same name as me.)
- We should ban cars. (They use too much gas.)
- I think dictionaries are useless. (They don't give good examples.)
- The family has a dog and a cat. (They live next door.)