

Relative clauses

We use relative clauses to **tell more** about people or things in **one sentence**.

We join the relative clause to its referent using a **relative pronoun**. These are:

WHOSE – to refer to people or things expressing ownership (possession)

THAT – to refer to people or things (can substitute 'who' or 'which')

The next section of the paper is devoted to the analysis of the information contained in the data.

There are two kinds of relative clauses. The second type is formal (use in writing):

1. Defining relative clauses – they specify the person or thing that we refer to.

we can use 'that' (inf.) instead of 'who' or 'which'.

we can leave out the pronoun if it's not the subject.

Example: Ragnar was a king that ruled Sweden in the 9th century.

2. Non-defining relative clauses – they just add extra information, not necessary.

we separate it using commas

we cannot use 'that'.

we cannot leave out the pronoun.

Example: Ragnar, who was a Viking, tried to conquer England.

We can identify and separate two simple sentences within each of the examples:

Ragnar was a king. This king ruled Sweden in the 9th century.

Ragnar tried to conquer England. He was a Viking.

To join these sentences, we substitute the information that repeats in the second sentence with the relative pronoun and we join it to its referent.

Combine these pairs of sentences using DEFINING relative clauses:

1. That's the girl. She talked to me yesterday. _____
2. We stayed in a hotel. It was very expensive. _____
3. That's the building. I work there. _____
4. That's the boy. His mother works in the post office. _____
5. The car was a BMW. It was a stolen. _____
6. What's the name of the book? You want me to read it. _____
7. France is a country. It has an interesting history. _____

Combine these pairs of sentences using **NON-DEFINING** relative clauses:

1. Mr Mason will be your assistant. He has come to Madrid this year.
2. _____ This was Picasso's favourite restaurant. He celebrated his birthdays here. [use 'where']
3. _____ Yesterday I called my friend Julie. She lives in New Jersey.
4. _____ Last week I bought a new computer. I don't like it now.
5. _____ My boss is very nice. She lives near the school.
6. _____ My bicycle is falling apart. I've had it for more than ten years.
7. _____ My mother's house is very small. I grew up in it.