

# NON DEFINING RELATIVE CLAUSES

**My brother, who claimed to have a limp, sprinted after the bus.**

This is just additional information. It is not required to identify the noun being modified (brother)

The relative pronoun cannot be omitted or changed by "that".

NON-DEFINING RELATIVE CLAUSES are subordinate clauses which are not essential to the meaning of the sentence. We use commas to separate them from the main clause. That cannot be used instead of who or which, and relatives cannot be omitted.

Examples:

- James, who has just come back from Ireland, speaks English fluently.
- Vera, whose parents are Spanish, would like to visit Spain soon.

## I.- Join each pair of sentences using a non-defining relative clause –between commas-

- 1) Sam Smith won the lottery last night. He is an electrician.
- 2) The book is a best-seller. It is about communist Russia.
- 3) The attic is very bright. I work there.
- 4) My father taught me to play chess. He loved the game.



## II.- Match the sentences with the relative clauses.

- 1) Stephen, \_\_\_\_\_, helps me with all of my computer problems.
- 2) He is very happy \_\_\_\_\_. He loves doing this.
- 3) The university \_\_\_\_\_ is one of the best technical universities in Europe.
- 4) Stephen has recommended a new computer, \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) Stephen, \_\_\_\_\_, works very hard at university.
- 6) I bought him a web cam, \_\_\_\_\_, to say thanks.

- a) which he loved
- b) which I will buy next month
- c) whose company is paying for his degree
- d) who is my neighbour
- e) where he studies
- f) when he is solving computer problems



## III.- Complete the text using the relative pronouns – that, when, where, which, who, whose - if necessary.

My great-aunt Dorothy is a woman <sup>1</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ doesn't seem to realize how old she is. In fact, she's eighty-one. She's up-to-date on all the news and trends, and she reads science books <sup>2</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ are too complicated for most people to understand.

Dorothy also loves computer games, <sup>3</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ some people think is really funny at her age. I think it's great and I've given her some of mine, but she said the last one <sup>4</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ I gave her was too violent. She doesn't like anything <sup>5</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ has guns in it.

Dorothy says good food is the secret to a long healthy life. She says someone <sup>6</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ meals are healthy, but delicious will always love being alive! She is sure that if you don't eat healthy food <sup>7</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ you are young, you won't want to later, either. She thinks the places <sup>8</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ I sometimes go to eat with my friends are terrible. I know she is right, but I love burgers!

Dorothy has a part-time job at the local library, <sup>9</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ she teaches retired people to use the internet. She's somebody <sup>10</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ everyone likes, especially me!



IV. Identify the relative clause in the following sentences, then write **D** for defining or **N** for non defining next to each clause.

1. The baby who is crying needs to eat right now. \_\_\_\_\_
2. The book which I read yesterday was very interesting. \_\_\_\_\_
3. The library, which opens from 7 to 5, has a lot of new books. \_\_\_\_\_
4. This is the restaurant that I love. \_\_\_\_\_
5. I need to talk to the man who is in charge of this office. \_\_\_\_\_

V. Match each relative pronoun with its use. Write the number next to the letter of the corresponding use.

- |       |   |                   |
|-------|---|-------------------|
| When  | • | • Possessions     |
| Who   | • | • Places          |
| Where | • | • People          |
| Which | • | • Things/ Animals |
| Whose | • | • Time            |

V. Complete with a suitable **RELATIVE PRONOUN**:

- a) Jane, \_\_\_\_\_ has just moved to New York, wants to start a career as a model.
- b) Jane's new flat, \_\_\_\_\_ she is sharing with another girl, is in the city centre.
- c) Her boss, \_\_\_\_\_ agency is really important, wants her to be the next Claudia Schiffer.
- d) Jane's parents, \_\_\_\_\_ are very proud of her, would like to visit her in New York soon.
- e) Pinecrest, \_\_\_\_\_ Jane was born, is a very small town.
- f) Jane, \_\_\_\_\_ ambition is to be famous, is going to work very hard.

