

RELATIVE CLAUSES – Exercises

1) Is the information in the relative clause necessary to know who or what we are talking about?

- a. She gave me her address which I wrote down in a piece of paper.
Necessary Not necessary
- b. Mr Carter to whom I spoke on the phone last night is very interested in our plan.
Necessary Not necessary
- c. The man to whom I spoke on the phone last night is very interested in our plan.
Necessary Not necessary
- d. I recently went back to the town where I was born.
Necessary Not necessary
- e. I recently went back to Madrid where I was born.
Necessary Not necessary
- f. I protested to the woman whose dog spent the night barking.
Necessary Not necessary
- g. My front door which was damaged in the storm is being repaired at the moment.
Necessary Not necessary
- h. The window which was damaged in the storm is being repaired at the moment.
Necessary Not necessary
- i. The family whose children have disappeared are talking to the police at the moment.
Necessary Not necessary
- k. Tomorrow I'm flying to NY where my friend Brian lives.
Necessary Not necessary

- The relative clause is **necessary** to know who/what we are talking about in **defining** relative clauses.
- The relative clause adds “extra” information in **non-defining** relative clauses.
- **Non-defining** relative clauses **need** “commas”.

2) Choose the correct option. Add commas if necessary.

The sentence “*I don't know most of the people who you invited to the party.*” is **defining** / **non-defining**.
The sentence “*Tokyo which we visited last summer is going to host the 2020 Olympic games*”
is **defining** / **non defining**;

3) Which sentences in exercise 1 need commas?

- We can use “**that**” instead of “**who**” or “**which**” in **defining** relative clauses. (also instead of “**when**”)

4) Complete with the correct RELATIVE ADVERB (why, where, when) or PRONOUN (who, which, whose)

Use “**that**” if possible.

1. This is the bank _____ was robbed yesterday.
2. Marcus, _____ is in my class, was in the bank at that time.
3. A greengrocer's is a place _____ you can buy vegetables.
4. The man _____ robbed the bank had two pistols.
5. This is the church _____ Sue and Peter got married.
6. He came with a friend, _____ waited outside in the car.
7. The woman to _____ I gave the money was young.
8. This is the station _____ Emily met James.
9. Is that the woman _____ son won the lottery?

5) Which sentence needs commas? In which sentence can you use “that”?

1. Have you still got the money which I gave you?
2. Peter's sister who I have known for years is a very nice person.

- You can omit the relative **who / which / that / whom** only in **defining** relative clauses (you can also omit **when**) when the relative pronoun **is not** the subject.

6) SUBJECT AND OBJECT PRONOUNS

Say if the following pronouns are a subject pronoun or an object pronoun.

ex. The apple **which** is lying on the table is from the new supermarket.

Subj.

ex. The apple (**which**) **George** lay on the table was put back into the basket.

Subj.

1. Do you know the girl **who** I danced with? SUBJECT OBJECT
2. Do you know the girl **who** danced with me? SUBJECT OBJECT
3. The apples **that** are in the fridge are bad. SUBJECT OBJECT
4. The apples **that** we bought in the shop are bad. SUBJECT OBJECT
5. We will stay at a hotel **which** is not far from the beach. SUBJECT OBJECT
6. We will stay at "Maracana Hotel", **which** my friend has recommended to us. SUBJECT OBJECT

7) Tick the sentences where you can omit the relative.

1. Do you know the girl **who** I danced with? YES NO
2. Do you know the girl **who** danced with me? YES NO
3. The apples **that** are in the fridge are bad. YES NO
4. The apples **that** we bought in the shop are bad. YES NO
5. We will stay at a hotel **which** is not far from the beach. YES NO
6. We will stay at "Maracana Hotel", **which** my friend has recommended to us YES NO

7) PREPOSITION + RELATIVE PRONOUN (who/whom or which): EXAMPLES

DEFINING

ex. This is the man **for whom** I work.

This is the man who/that I work for.

This is the man () I work for.

ex. We missed the bus **for which** we were waiting.

We missed the bus which we were waiting **for**.

We missed the bus () we were waiting for.

NON-DEFINING

This is Mr. Thomson, for whom I work.

This is Mr Thomson, who I work for.

We missed the 10:00 train, **for which** we were waiting.

We missed the 10:00 train, which we were waiting **for**.

a. Fill in the gaps with a (prep.) + a relative pronoun.

1. Peter's party, we are all invited, is next Saturday.
2. Peter's party, we are all invited **to**, is next Saturday.
3. The man I introduced you is Sue's cousin.
4. The man I introduced you **to** is Sue's cousin.
5. The shop I bought the shoes **from** has closed down.
6. The shop I bought the shoes has closed down.
7. Mr Jones, I was talking a moment ago, is a teacher at my school.
8. Mr Jones, I was talking **to** a moment ago, is a teacher at my school.

b. Rewrite the following sentences. Omit the relative if possible

Example

That's the ship on which we travelled.

That's the ship **we travelled on**.

1. That's the type of sport about which I know nothing.

That's the type of sport

2. Here is the address to which you should write.

Here is the address

3. The book at which you were looking belongs to me.

The book

4. I couldn't recognise the house in which he lived.

I couldn't recognise the house

5. There is Mr Jones, from whom Michael is hiding.

6. There is Mr Jones,

7. He didn't get the job for which he applied.

8. He didn't get the job

9. Mark, with whom I work, is nice.

Mark,, is nice.