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RELATIVE CLAUSES: BASIC REVIEW

Relative Clauses are divided into two groups:

Defining: no commas.

My brother who lives in Australia is here visiting

(This sentence indicates that I have other brothers not living in Australia)

Non-defining: commas

My brother, who lives in Australia, is here visiting

(This sentence indicates that I have only one brother and he lives in Australia)

PRONOUNS (where, when, whose, which, who, whom, that)

Where = in which

Example:

That is the pub **where** I forgot my purse = That is the pub **in which** I forgot my purse

Complete:

This is the hospital

I was born = This is the hospital

I was born

When

When replaces a time adverb (the moment that, the day that, ...)

Example:

I remember **the day that** we met

= I remember the day **when** we met / I remember **when** we met

We can omit **when**. **Example:**

I remember **the day** we met

Complete:

That was the moment that I saw you = That was the moment

I saw you

That was I saw you = That was the I saw you

Whose

Whose replaces a possessive adjective (my, your, his, her, its, our, your, their).

Example:

That is the man. **His** ancestors are all doctors

= That is the man **whose** ancestors are all doctors.

Complete:

She is my neighbour.

children live abroad

= She is my neighbour, children live abroad

Who / that

Who or **That** refer to a person

Example:

That was the man who spoke to me yesterday
= That was the man that spoke to me yesterday

Join these sentences (use **WHO** for the first example and **THAT** for the second):

I saw the thief. He broke into your house
= I saw the thief who broke into your house
= I saw the thief that broke into your house

I met the lady. She told me everything
= I met the lady who told me everything
= I met the lady that told me everything

We can omit **who** and **that** when they are not the subject

She is the lady ~~who~~ I saw = She is the lady ~~that~~ I saw

He is the man ~~who~~ they employed = He is the man ~~that~~ they employed

Which / that

Which or **That** refer to an animal, a concept, an object

Example:

That was the dog which bit me!
= That was the dog that bit me!

Join these sentences (use **WHICH** for the first example and **THAT** for the second):

I bought the handbag. It cost €50
= I bought the handbag which cost €50
= I bought the handbag that cost €50

I found the letters. They were my mother's
= I found the letters which were my mother's
= I found the letters that were my mother's

We can omit **which** and **that** when they are not the subject

This is the cat ~~which~~ I saw in the garden = This is the cat ~~that~~ I saw in the garden

That is the house ~~which~~ I love = That is the house ~~that~~ I love

Whom

Whom refers to a person, and it is placed after a preposition.

We can omit it.

Examples:

He is the man **for whom** I work (formal)

= He is the man I work **for** (informal)

They are the children **with whom** I used to play (formal)

= They are the children I used to play **with** (informal)