



**PSLE English Mastery**  
**Synthesis /**  
**Transformation**  
**The Write Tribe**

**Relative pronouns**



# 6

## Relative Pronouns

### who, whom

- You use **who** and **whom** as relative pronouns to refer to people. You put **who** or **whom** after the person (people) it describes. [Note: A relative pronoun comes at the beginning of a relative clause.]

- Mary introduced me to her brother Sam. He looked slightly familiar.
- Mary introduced me to her brother Sam, who looked slightly familiar.

relative clause

↑  
A comma is inserted as the information that follows "who" is not an essential part of the sentence. You do not need it to identify the person that comes before "who".

- Mr Lim was attacked by the dog but he was not badly injured.
- Mr Lim, whom the dog attacked, was not badly injured.

relative clause

Remove "some" when you join the sentences with "who".

- ↓
- Some people tell lies. I do not like them.
  - I do not like people who tell lies.

relative clause

- Only Arun knows how to solve the puzzle.
- The only person who knows how to solve the puzzle is Arun.

relative clause

- You can use **who** or **whom** if the person is the object of the verb in the relative clause.

- Our coach has chosen the players for the team. Here are the names of the players.
- Here are the names of the players who our coach has chosen for the team.

object of the verb  
"has chosen"

relative clause

- Dad is talking to a girl. I have never seen her before.
- Dad is talking to a girl whom I have never seen before.  
 object of the verb                      relative clause  
 "have ... seen"

- You use **who**, NOT **whom**, if the person is the subject of the verb in the relative clause.

- Mr Low will look after our dog. He has no pets of his own.
- Mr Low, who has no pets of his own, will look after our dog.                      [✓]  
 subject of the                      relative clause  
 verb "has"

- Mr Low, **whom** has no pets of his own, will look after our dog.                      [X]

- Miss Lee teaches English. She is getting married next month.
- Miss Lee, who teaches English, is getting married next month.                      [✓]  
 subject of the  
 verb "teaches"

- Miss Lee, **whom** teaches English, is getting married next month.                      [X]

- You use **whom**, NOT **who**, immediately after a preposition.

- Peter Smith is a poet. My aunt is married to him.
- Peter Smith, to whom my aunt is married, is a poet.                      [✓]  
 preposition

- Peter Smith, **to who** my aunt is married, is a poet.                      [X]

- The girl told Jack to be quiet. Jack was sitting beside her.
- The girl beside whom Jack was sitting told him to be quiet.                      [✓]  
 preposition

- The girl **beside who** Jack was sitting told him to be quiet.                      [X]

- I sent the letter to the man. He replied immediately.
- The man to whom I sent the letter replied immediately.                      [✓]  
 preposition

- The man **to who** I sent the letter replied immediately.                      [X]

**Practice 1**

Rewrite the given sentence(s) using the word(s) provided. Your answer must be in ONE sentence. The meaning of your sentence must be the same as the meaning of the given sentence(s).

- 1 The prefect is my classmate Annie. She led the pledge-taking ceremony this morning.

\_\_\_\_\_ who

\_\_\_\_\_

- 2 Mrs Chan thanked the man. He had helped her.

\_\_\_\_\_ who

\_\_\_\_\_

- 3 The police have caught the robbers. They stole the jewels.

\_\_\_\_\_ who

\_\_\_\_\_

- 4 Judy has received a letter from a girl. She met the girl at the adventure camp last year.

\_\_\_\_\_ whom

\_\_\_\_\_

- 5 The man was ordered to repay the people. He owed money to them.

\_\_\_\_\_ to whom

\_\_\_\_\_

- 6 The people looked after me well. I was staying with them.

\_\_\_\_\_ with whom

\_\_\_\_\_

## whose

- You use **whose** to give information about who owns something. You put **whose** after the owner.

- I feel sorry for the people. Their houses have been destroyed by the earthquake.
  - I feel sorry for the people **whose** houses have been destroyed by the earthquake.
- the people's  
houses

- Mr and Mrs Tan are visiting their youngest son. His office is in New York.
- Mr and Mrs Tan are visiting their youngest son, **whose** office is in New York.



their youngest  
son's office

A comma is inserted as the information that follows "whose" is not an essential part of the sentence. You do not need it to identify the owner that comes before "whose".

- This book is at least two hundred years old. Its cover is made of leather.
- This book **whose** cover is made of leather is at least two hundred years old.

the book's  
cover

Remove "some of" when you join the sentences with "whose".



- The bags of some of the students are in the dance studio. These students need to go there later.
- The students **whose** bags are in the dance studio need to go there later.

- My cat Mimi has soft white fur. She likes to curl up next to me when I do my homework.
- My cat Mimi, **whose** fur is soft and white, likes to curl up next to me when I do my homework.

Change "soft white fur" to  
"fur is soft and white" in the  
combined sentence.

**Practice 2**

Rewrite the given sentence(s) using the word(s) provided. Your answer must be in ONE sentence. The meaning of your sentence must be the same as the meaning of the given sentence(s).

1 We came to the help of the old lady. Her eyesight was not very good.  
\_\_\_\_\_ whose  
\_\_\_\_\_

2 Mike Johnson won Best Singer of the Year Award. His concerts are always sold out.  
\_\_\_\_\_ whose  
\_\_\_\_\_

3 The woman is making a police report. Her house has been broken into.  
\_\_\_\_\_ whose  
\_\_\_\_\_

4 A few pedestrians are helping the victim. His car has crashed into a drain.  
\_\_\_\_\_ whose  
\_\_\_\_\_

5 The river is popular with tourists. Its view is very scenic.  
\_\_\_\_\_ whose  
\_\_\_\_\_

6 David's bedroom is always untidy. He is being scolded by his mother.  
\_\_\_\_\_ whose  
\_\_\_\_\_

## which, that

- You use **which** and **that** as relative pronouns to refer to things and animals. You put **which** or **that** after the thing(s) or animal(s) it describes.

- This is my cat Mimi. She gave birth to three kittens last month.
- This is my cat Mimi, **which** gave birth to three kittens last month.



A comma is inserted as the information that follows "which" is not an essential part of the sentence. You do not need it to identify the animal that comes before "which".

- We are tidying the room. It will be used by our guests this weekend.
  - We are tidying the room **that** will be used by our guests this weekend.
  - I wish someone would create a machine. It could tidy my bedroom for me.
  - I wish someone would create a machine **which** could tidy my bedroom for me.
- A relative clause beginning with **which** may or may not be an essential part of the sentence. You insert a comma or a pair of commas around the relative clause if it is non-essential.
  - A relative clause beginning with **that** MUST be an essential part of the sentence. You do not insert a comma or a pair of commas around the relative clause.
- The family packed the clothes in two suitcases. They needed them for the trip.
  - The family packed the clothes **which** they needed for the trip in two suitcases. [✓]
  - The family packed the clothes **that** they needed for the trip in two suitcases. [✓]
  - Thomas Lee's latest book is very interesting. I have just finished reading it.
  - Thomas Lee's latest book, **which** I have just finished reading, is very interesting. [✓]
  - Thomas Lee's latest book, **that** I have just finished reading, is very interesting. [X]

- You use **which**, NOT **that**, immediately after a preposition.
  - This is the cabinet. My grandparents display their most precious ornaments in it.
  - This is the cabinet, in which my grandparents display their most precious ornaments. [✓]
  - This is the cabinet, **in that** my grandparents display their most precious ornaments. [X]
  
  - My brother spilt juice on the picnic mat. We were sitting on it.
  - My brother spilt juice on the picnic mat **on which** we were sitting. [✓]
  - My brother spilt juice on the picnic mat **on that** we were sitting. [X]
  
- You can use **that**, NOT **which**, instead of **who** to give information about people. Remember that the information that follows **that** must be an essential part of the sentence.
  - Doctors look after sick people.
  - Doctors look after people **who** are sick. [✓]
  - Doctors look after people **that** are sick. [✓]
  
  - The police officer stopped Ben. He was not wearing a helmet.
  - The police officer stopped Ben, **who** was not wearing a helmet. [✓]
  - The police officer stopped Ben, **that** was not wearing a helmet. [X]
  
- You can use **which** to refer back to the whole clause that comes before it.
  - Jane hid her little sister's doll. It was a very mean thing to do.
  - Jane hid her little sister's doll, **which** was a very mean thing to do.
 


  
  - You have to turn the key as you raise the handle. This is not as easy as it sounds.
  - You have to turn the key as you raise the handle, **which** is not as easy as it sounds.
 



**Practice 3**

Rewrite the given sentence(s) using the word(s) provided. Your answer must be in **ONE** sentence. The meaning of your sentence must be the same as the meaning of the given sentence(s).

1 I gave Jack a slice of cake. It had several pieces of fruit on it.

\_\_\_\_\_ that  
\_\_\_\_\_

2 We had to wait for several hours. It was very annoying.

\_\_\_\_\_ which  
\_\_\_\_\_

3 Sugar comes from plants. It is an essential ingredient for baking.

\_\_\_\_\_ which  
\_\_\_\_\_

4 The invitation cards were written by my sister. I will send them to my friends.

\_\_\_\_\_ that  
\_\_\_\_\_

5 The boxes can be recycled. The goods are packed in them.

\_\_\_\_\_ in which  
\_\_\_\_\_

6 Someone asked the man a question. He made no reply to it.

\_\_\_\_\_ to  
\_\_\_\_\_