

90 Relative pronouns



Basildon Park is a house which often appears in films.
It's the house which they used in *Pride and Prejudice*.

1 Relative pronoun as subject

Look at these sentences:

Basildon Park is a house . Basildon Park often appears in films.

*Basildon Park is a house **which** often appears in films.*

Here, *which* = the subject of *appears*. It replaces the noun *Basildon Park* in the second sentence.

2 Relative pronoun as object

Now look at these sentences:

Basildon Park is a house . They used the house in 'Pride and Prejudice'.

*Basildon Park is the house **which** they used in 'Pride and Prejudice'.*

Here, *which* = the object of *used*.

We can also use *who* and *that* in this way:

*The teacher **who** I like most is my music teacher.*

*Alex is the guy **that** I met yesterday.*

NATURAL ENGLISH We often use relative clauses without *which*, *who* or *that* when they are the object of the verb:

Basildon Park is the house they used in 'Pride and Prejudice'.

The teacher I like most is my music teacher.

Alex is the guy I met yesterday.



Don't repeat the noun or pronoun:

✗ *The house they used in the film it was called Basildon Park.*

✓ *The house they used in the film was called Basildon Park.*



We need the relative pronoun when it is the subject:

✗ *Basildon Park is a house often appears in film.*

✓ *Basildon Park is a house **which** often appears in films.*

Practice

1 Put a line through the relative pronoun if it is not necessary.

- 0 We've just sold the car ~~which~~ we bought two years ago.
- 1 Have you met Richard? He's the friend that I met in Bangkok.
- 2 Have you got any pens which I can use on the whiteboard?
- 3 I don't like coffee which tastes really bitter.
- 4 Did you see the doctor who examined you last time?
- 5 Harrison's? Is that the tour company which you used for your last holiday?
- 6 Is James McAvoy the actor who was in *Atonement*?

2 **GRAMMAR IN USE** Complete the conversation with relative pronouns, but only if they are necessary.

- TOURIST Excuse me. Can you tell me something about the Harry Potter tour?
- OFFICIAL Of course. It's a fascinating tour (0) *.....which.....* lasts all day. It starts in London and you visit a lot of the places (1) *.....* the director chose when he filmed the Harry Potter movies.
- TOURIST Oh, so the tour isn't only around London?
- OFFICIAL No, there were several places in and around Oxford (2) *.....* they used in the filming.
- TOURIST That's interesting. Is there a guide?
- OFFICIAL Oh, yes, there's a guide with every tour (3) *.....* can give you a lot of interesting information.
- TOURIST Right. Where does the tour go in London?
- OFFICIAL It goes to St Pancras Station – that's the station (4) *.....* has the famous Platform 9¾ in the film. Then it goes to London Zoo – you know, you see that in the part of the film (5) *.....* shows Harry with the animals. You have lunch in London and after lunch the tour goes to Oxford. There are several places in the University (6) *.....* you visit.
- TOURIST It all sounds good. Now, how much are the tickets ...?



3 Join the sentences. Use a relative pronoun if necessary.

- 0 I've never eaten at my cousin's restaurant. He opened it last year.
I've never eaten *at the restaurant my cousin opened last year*
- 1 Here's the book. I promised to give it to you.
Here's the book
- 2 Have you seen the technician? He repairs the computers.
Have you seen ?
- 3 That's the film. I described it on the phone.
That's
- 4 Have you been to the hotel? It was in *The Italian Job*.
Have you been ?
- 5 Sally's just bought a car. It goes really fast.
Sally's just bought
- 6 We saw the woman. We met her at Ginny's party last year.
We saw the woman