

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.

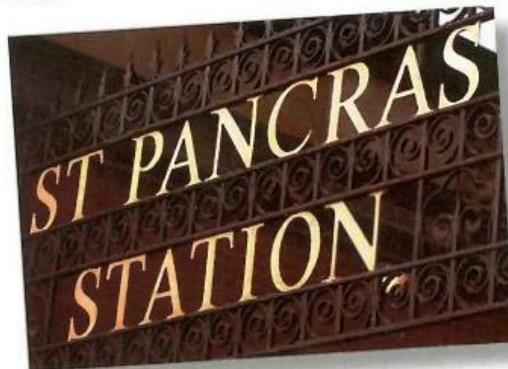
TOURIST That's interesting. Is there a guide?

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 9 3/4 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