

*** Relative Clauses ***



When we talk about people or things, we often add more information about them. To do this, we use a relative clause. A relative clause immediately follows the noun or pronoun it describes, and begins with a relative pronoun.

e.g. The pills which the doctor prescribed make me dizzy.

הַפְּרִזְבִּיטְרִים אֲשֶׁר שָׁרֵן קְלִין אֵיךְ יְהִי מִזְבְּחָן יְהִי מִזְבְּחָן
אֲשֶׁר קָרָב אֶלְךָ תְּלִין אֵיךְ יְהִי מִזְבְּחָן יְהִי מִזְבְּחָן Relative Pronoun - אֲשֶׁר

e.g. My grandmother is studying for her pilot's license.

She celebrated her 75th birthday last week.

My grandmother, who celebrated her 75th birthday last week, is studying for her pilot's license.

הָאֶםְמָנָה אֲשֶׁר חִזְקָה בְּלִבְנָה אֲשֶׁר חִזְקָה בְּלִבְנָה Relative Pronoun - אֲשֶׁר אֲשֶׁר חִזְקָה בְּלִבְנָה

e.g. This is the teacher. I talked to you about her.

This is the teacher that I talked to you about her.

The most common relative pronouns:

who whom that which whose where when

* who / whom / that - are used to describe people.

e.g. I know the man. He built this tall building.

I know the man who/that built this tall building.

whom is always followed by a subject. (used in formal English)

Has to be used after prepositions.

e.g. This is the driver. I told you about him

This is the driver whom I told you about.

* which / that - are used to describe things, animals, ideas etc.

e.g. This is the dog. It bit me.

This is the dog that/which bit me.

e.g. I like the plan. Peter described it.

I like the plan which Peter described.

The word that can replace the relative pronouns who, which or whom.

We must use that after the words: all, something, nothing, anything,

little, much, few, the first and superlatives.

e.g. Not all that glitters is gold.

* whose - is used for possession. It often replaces words like: my, her, Kate's.

e.g. I feel sorry for the people. Their house has been destroyed.

I feel sorry for the people whose house has been destroyed.

* where - is used to describe places and replaces the words like: there, here.

e.g. That is the school. As a child I studied there.

That is the school where I studied as a child.

* when - is used for expressions of time and often replaces words like:

year, month, week.

e.g. I will never forget the day. You were born then.

I will never forget the day when you were born.

Defining and Non-Defining Relative Clauses

- A defining relative clause - tells us which person or which thing the sentence is talking about.

In sentences like these, there are no commas which separate the relative clauses from the rest of the sentence.

enhej kf ,goena p3y pe nyk fyr נקחין גיר נזקлив פיר Relative Clause - ה נקסו
כסאיק'ם כז' הנקווין איתך מנק' הנקו .goena

e.g. People who are on a diet should take a vitamin supplement.

- A non-defining relative clause - gives additional information about a person or a thing. In such sentences, we already know which person or thing. The relative clause tells us something more about them.

Relative clauses which give additional information are usually separated from the rest of the sentence by commas.

folj p3on kf k fuij fuij'ya' le ha3a נזק' Relative Clause - ה נקסו
אף, רכלין זוק' goena p3n tsen fyr זוק' זוק' כז' כז' .goena

e.g. Aunt Cheryl, who doesn't stop talking, called me this afternoon.

Leaving out the Relative Pronoun

- The words who, which or that can be left out of a relative clause if they are followed by a subject.

...nfik kpe fo3n tsen נזק' Relative Pronouns - ה נקסו
e.g. Look at the new picture (which) I bought last week.

- If they are followed by a verb, they cannot be left out.

...npik goena kejz enen kln pk relative Pronoun - ה נקסו
e.g. All cars which are parked illegally will be towed away.