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.

ניתן לחבר שני משפטים פשוטים או יותר למשפט אחד מורכב

Relative Pronoun–מ אשר ייכתב מיד לאחר שם העצם או תשלול אותם הוא מתאר.

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.

... אין לחסיר את ה Relative Pronoun – מ ואת ה pronoun – אליו הוא מתייחס:

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.

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* 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.

  כאשר ה – Relative Clause מבהיר על אילו שם עצם מדברים במשפט, לא נשתמש בפסיקים כדי להפריד את חלקי המשפט.

  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.

  כאשר ה – Relative Clause אינו חיוני לזיהוי שם הנעצם אלא מספק מידע נוסף בלבד, נפריד אותו מאשר חלקי המשפט על ידי פסיקים.

  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.

  ניתן להשמיט את ה – Relative Pronouns כאשר הנסף שבא אחריהן מהווה נושא.

  e.g. Look at the new picture (which) I bought last week.

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

  לא ניתן להשמיט את ה – relative Pronoun את הוא משמש כנושא במשפט הזיקה.

  e.g. All cars which are parked illegally will be towed away.

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