

STUDENT HANDOUT: GUIDED DISCOVERY

Grammar: Defining Relative Clauses

PART 1: Meaning and Use

Read the example sentences below:

1. *He's the scientist **who was on the TV news yesterday**.*
2. *Look at the box **that's on the table**.*
3. *This is the place **where they made the first battery**.*

Answer the questions by ticking (✓) the correct box:

A. Do the bold clauses give essential information to identify *exactly* which person, thing, or place we are talking about?

[] YES [] NO

B. If we remove the bold part from Sentence 1 ("*He's the scientist*"), do we know *which* scientist the speaker means?

[] YES [] NO

PART 2: Form and Pronoun Choice

Complete the rules below using the correct relative pronouns: **who**, **which**, **where**, or **that**.

1. For a relative clause about a **PERSON**, we use: _____ or _____

○ Example: "That's the woman _____ we saw yesterday."

2. For a relative clause about a **THING**, we use: _____ or _____

○ Example: "Did you get the message _____ I sent you?"

3. For a relative clause about a **PLACE**, we use: _____

- Example: "This is the town _____ I was born."

Critical Rule Check:

- Can we use **that** instead of *who* or *which*? ☐ YES ☐ NO
- Can we use **that** instead of *where*? ☐ YES ☐ NO

PART 3: Common Mistakes (Pronoun Repetition)

Compare these two sentences:

- **Sentence A (Correct):** "This is an invention that could change the world!"
- **Sentence B (Incorrect):** "This is an invention that ~~it~~ could change the world!"

Rule: When the relative pronoun (*who, which, that*) is the subject of the clause, **do NOT repeat the subject pronoun** (*he, she, it, they*).

Exercise: Correct the sentence below by crossing out the extra word:

"I met a woman who she works for NASA."

Corrected Sentence: