

Relative clauses

Type 1 (defining relative clause)

The woman who lives next door to me is a doctor.

Grace works for a company that makes furniture.

In these examples, the relative clauses tell you which person or thing (or what kind of person or thing) the speaker means:

'The woman who lives next door to me' tells us which woman.

'A company that makes furniture' tells us what kind of company.

We do not use commas (,) with these clauses:

We know a lot of people who live in London

In both types of relative clause we use **who** for people and **which** for things.

But:

Type 1

You can use that:

Do you know anyone who/that speaks French and Italian?

Grace works for a company which/that makes furniture.

You can leave out who/which/that when it is the object:

We stayed at the hotel (that/which) you recommended.

This morning I met somebody (who/that) I hadn't seen for ages.

Type 2 (non-defining relative clause)

My brother Ben, who lives in Hong Kong, is an architect.

Anna told me about her new job, which she's enjoying a lot.

In these examples, the relative clauses do not tell you which person or thing the speaker means. We already know which thing or person is meant:

'My brother Ben' and 'Anna's new job' .

The relative clauses in these sentences give us extra information about the person or thing. We use commas (,) with these clauses:

My brother Ben, who lives in Hong Kong, is an architect.

Type 2

You cannot use that:

John, who speaks French and Italian, works as a tour guide. (not that speaks)

Anna told me about her new job, which she's enjoying a lot.

You cannot leave out who or which:

We stayed at the Park Hotel, which a friend of ours recommended.

This morning I met Chris, who I hadn't seen for ages.

1. Make one sentence from two. Use the information in brackets to make a relative clause (Type 2). You will need to use who/whom/whose/which/where.

1. Catherine is very friendly. (She lives next door to us.)

Catherine, who lives next door to us, is very friendly.

2. We stayed at the Park Hotel. (A friend of ours recommended this hotel.)

We stayed at the Park Hotel, which a friend of ours recommended.

3. We drove to the airport. (The airport was not far from the city.)

We drove to the airport, _____.

4. Kate's husband is an airline pilot. (I have never met Kate's husband.)

Kate's _____ pilot.

5. Lisa is away from home a lot. (Lisa's job involves a lot of travelling.)

Lisa _____.

6. Paul and Emily have a daughter, Alice. (Alice has just started school.)

Paul and Emily have _____.

7. The new stadium will hold 90,000 spectators. (The stadium will be finished next month.)

_____.

8. My brother lives in Alaska. (Alaska is the largest state in the US.)

_____.

9. Our teacher was very kind. (I have forgotten her name.)

_____.

10. We enjoyed our visit to the museum. (We saw a lot of interesting things in the museum.)

_____.

2. Read the information and complete the sentences. Use a relative clause of Type 1 or Type 2. Use commas where necessary.

1. My brother is an architect. (He lives in Hong Kong.)

My brother, who lives in Hong Kong, is an architect.

2. The strike at the factory has now ended. (The strike began ten days ago.)

The strike at the factory _____.

3. I was looking for a book this morning. (I've found it now.)

I've found _____.

4. I've had my car for 15 years. (This car has never broken down.)

My car _____.

5. A lot of people applied for the job. (Few of them had the necessary qualifications.)

Few of _____.

6. Amy showed me a picture of her son. (Her son is a police officer.)

Amy showed me _____.