

RELATIVE CLAUSES

*DEFINING (IDENTIFYING) RELATIVE CLAUSES

- *Identify which person or thing we mean exactly
- *The information they give is essential for understanding and cannot be left out

e.g.

- *It's the car that I saw here yesterday.

*NON-DEFINING (NON-IDENTIFYING) RELATIVE CLAUSES

- *Give additional information about a person or thing
- *If we leave them out, the sentence still makes sense

e.g.

The summer here, which I don't like, lasts for months.

*DEFINING RELATIVE CLAUSES

*To form defining relative clauses we use the relative pronouns

who/ that - people, e.g. She's the woman **who/ that** reads the news on TV.

who/ that/ whom - people (when it is an object), e.g. She's the woman **(who/whom/that)** I saw on TV last night.

whose - possession (both people/ things) - She's the woman **whose** car got stolen last night. // That's the shop **whose** windows got smashed.

which/ that - animals and things, e.g. It's the kind of dog **which/ that** makes a good pet.

THINGS TO REMEMBER:

- * We can omit the relative pronoun if it refers to the object of the sentence, e.g.

It's the job (which/ that) I'd like to have.

- * We do not use commas in defining relative clauses.
- * We can use a relative pronoun as an object after preposition. It is now usually omitted and preposition is put at the end of the sentence:

Ms Berry was the person to whom I sent the letter (formal)

Ms Berry was the person I sent the letter to. (more common)

- * Whom is normally used in formal sentences, in informal style who is more common, except when whom is used with prepositions to/ for/ with whom:

Is she the person to whom you gave the letter?

He's the man with whom I share an office.

But: He's the man I saw her with.

NON -DEFINING RELATIVE CLAUSES

*Are formed with the following relative pronouns:

who - people, e.g. His wife, who is French, speaks three languages.

who/ whom - people (as objects), e.g. His wife, who/ whom I met in Paris, is French.

whose - possessions (both people and things), e.g. His wife, whose car was stolen, is French.

which - animals and things, e.g. The novel, which has already sold thousands of copies , is the author's first one.

Things to remember:

- *We cannot normally leave out the relative pronoun;
- *We use commas with non-defining relative clauses;

Compare:

Mr Smith who teaches English is so fat! (it is the Mr Smith who teaches English that I am referring to)

Mr Smith, who teaches English, is so fat. (Mr Smith is fat and also teaches English)

*Relative adverbs describe time, place and reason

type	Relative adverb	Preposition+which
time	That was the year when I graduated.	That was the year in which I graduated.
	May 6 was the day when we got married.	May 6 was the day on which we got married.
	12 o'clock was the time when we met.	12 o'clock was the time at which we met.
place	That's the factory where they make chemicals.	That's the factory in which we make chemicals.
	That's the spot where the statue will be built.	That's the spot on which the statue will be built.
	Mykonos is the island where we go every summer.	Mykonos is the island to which we go every summer.
reason	I'll tell you the reason why you were fired.	I'll tell you the reason for which you were fired.