

RELATIVE CLAUSES

ACTIVITY TYPE

Reading, Writing, Grammar,
Exercises

LANGUAGE FOCUS

The RELATIVE CLAUSE

AIM

To learn and practice the
RELATIVE CLAUSE

LEVEL

Elementary, Intermediate

TIME

60 Min

INTRODUCTION

After going through your regular review and teacher talk, tell the students that they're going to learn the RELATIVE CLAUSES in English

PREPARATION

Make one copy of the worksheet for each student

PROCEDURE

Give one copy of the worksheet to each student.
Go through the grammar and exercises together.

WRAPUP

Ask the students if they have any doubts.

Thank them for coming to the lesson.

RELATIVE CLAUSES

DEFINING RELATIVE CLAUSES

As the name suggests, these clauses give essential information to define or identify the person or thing we are talking about. Obviously, this is only necessary if there is more than one person or thing involved.

Example:

Elephants who marry mice are very unusual.

In this sentence we understand that there are many elephants, but it is clear that we are only talking the ones *who marry mice*.

Punctuation

Commas are not used in defining relative clauses.

Relative pronouns

The following relative pronouns are used in defining relative clauses:



	Person	Thing	Place	Time	Reason
Subject	who/that	which/that			
Object	who/whom/that /ø	which/that/ ø	where	when	why
Possessive	whose	whose			

Notes:

1. The relative pronoun stands in place of a noun.

This noun usually appears earlier in the sentence:

The woman who/that spoke at the meeting was very knowledgeable.

Noun, subject of main clause
 relative pronoun referring to 'the woman', subject of 'spoke'
 verb + rest of relative clause
 + rest of main clause



(You can usually decide whether a relative pronoun is an object because it is normally followed by another subject + verb.)

4. *Whose* is used for things as well as for people.

Examples:

The man whose car was stolen.

A tree whose leaves have fallen.

5. *Whom* is very formal and is only used in written English. You can use *who/that*, or omit the pronoun completely:

The doctor *whom/who/that/ø* I was hoping to see wasn't on duty.

6. *That* normally follows words like *something, anything, everything, nothing, all*, and superlatives.

Examples:

- There's something *that you should know*.
- It was the best film *that I've ever seen*.



Examples:

- A clown is someone *who makes you laugh*.
- An elephant is an animal *that lives in hot countries*.
- The plums *that were in the fridge* were delicious. I have eaten them.
- Where are the plums *(that) I put in the fridge*?
- Has anyone seen *the book I was reading*?
- Nothing *that anyone does* can replace my lost bag.
- Let's go to a country *where the sun always shines*.
- They live in the house *whose roof is full of holes*.

Exercises

Defining Relative Pronouns Exercise

people	that / who
owners	whose
things	that / which
places	where

Combine the sentences using defining relative pronouns. When the relative pronoun is an object it can be omitted.

1 That's the girl. She spoke to me yesterday.

_____.

2 What's the name of the book? You want me to read it.

_____.

3 We stayed in a hotel. The hotel was very expensive.



_____.

4 I rent a house. It is very small.

_____.

5 The car was stolen. It was a BMW.

_____.

6 The man smoked forty cigarettes a day. He died of a heart attack.

_____.

7 That's the building. I work there.

_____.

8 That's the boy. His mother works in the post office.

_____.

9 The businessman was very rich. I saw him last night.

_____.

1
0 That's the dog. Its owner is French.

_____.

Use who or that in these sentences

e.g I like people who tell jokes all the time

I can't find the book that you gave me

1. I've already read the book was in my handbag
2. An architect is someone designs buildings
3. What was the name of the manlent you the money?
4. Arthur works for a companymakes computers
5. Where is the butterwas in the fridge?
6. Do you know the man lives near my granny's house
7. The flowers were picked up are very nice

8. I don't like stories have unhappy endings
9. Anyone wants to become a professor needs a degree
10. The dog lives next door is always barking at me

Now you have to read two sentences and then write one sentence with the same meaning. Use a relative clause in your sentence.

e.g. A girl was injured in the accident. She is now in hospital

The girl who was injured in the accident is now in hospital

1. A woman opened the door. She told me you had moved some weeks before

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2. A man answered the phone. He told me you were sleeping

.....

3. Some people were killed in the movie. They were really good actors

.....

4. A nurse put a plaster on my leg. She was really a sweet person

.....

5. A young boy tried to steal my bag. He looked really aggressive

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