

RELATIVE CLAUSES

DEFINING (provide essential information)	NON-DEFINING (provide non-essential information)
The woman is a doctor. The woman lives next door (essential inf.) The woman who lives next door is a doctor. (The relative clause specifies which woman I am talking about).	My brother Jim is a doctor. My brother lives in London (not essential information) My brother Jim, who lives in London, is a doctor. (I have already specified which of my possible brothers I'm referring to by using his name).
No commas needed.	Commas are needed.
MAIN PRONOUNS: WHO, WHICH, THAT For people: who or that For things and animals: which or that	MAIN PRONOUNS: WHO, WHICH. (THAT is not possible). For people: who For things and animals: which .
- AS SUBJECT of the clause cannot be omitted: The girl won. I talked to the girl. I talked to the girl who/that won.	- AS SUBJECT of the clause cannot be omitted: Ann retired two years ago. Ann won many races. Ann , who retired two years ago, won many races.
- AS OBJECT : can be omitted . This morning I ran into an old friend. Lately I had been telling you about her. This morning I ran into the old friend (that/who) I had been telling you about lately. (The subject is "I", the object is "the old friend")	- AS OBJECT : cannot be omitted. We ran into Sara at the supermarket this morning. She used to work for me. Sara , who we met at the supermarket this morning, used to work for me. (The subject is "Sara")

OTHER PRONOUNS:

WHOSE: in place of his, her, their... Possessive. Used for people and things in all relative sentences.

Susan is the woman **whose** husband is an actor.

Susan, **whose** husband is an actor, was in a very bad mood.

WHOM: more formal than WHO. Only used as an object pronoun in both defining and non-defining relative sentences.

WHERE (places), **WHEN** (time) and **WHY** (reason).

Paris is the place **where** they met.

Paris, **where** they met, is the capital of France.

Relative Clauses

When do you use them?

Relative Clauses are used to give additional information about something without adding another sentence.

With the help of relative clauses, your text become more fluent, and helps avoid repeating words.

Defining Relative Clauses → It gives detailed information defining a general term. These clauses are not put in commas.

→ **When can we use it?** For example: "My brother who lives in France came to see me" It is essential information because we can "infer" that you have more than one brother.

Non-Defining Relative Clauses → Give additional information about something, but it is not essential. These Clauses are put in Commas.

→ **When can we use it?** For example: "My brother, who lives in France, came to see me". With the same example you can say that this is not essential information, but something additional because we can infer that I have only one brother.

What are Relative Pronouns?

Who



Subject or object pronoun for people. (like : she, he)

Ex. My sister who lives in France came to see me.

Whom

Object pronoun for people. (When you replace him/her)

Ex. Mr. Bean whom I met at the Supermarket

Which

Subject or object pronoun for animals and things

Ex. The phone which we bought is new.

That

Subject or object pronoun of people, animals and things

Ex. I didn't like the movie that we saw

Whose

Possession for people, animals &

That boy, whose mom is a nurse, is really cute.

Common Mistakes

Wrong
The man who was sitting next to me he had a Brown jacket

He lent me the book, which I found it very useful.

The winner, that was 25, will receive \$1000.

Correct
The man who was sitting next to me had a Brown jacket

He lent me the book, which I found very useful.

The winner, who was 25, will receive \$1000.

Why?
After a relative clause we do not repeat the subject.

A relative clause can have only one direct object.

That cannot be used in non-defining (extra information) clause.

