



ENGLISH RELATIVE CLAUSES

Name: _____

Date: _____

Class: VII Sec: ____

Relative Clauses

Relative clauses are clauses starting with the relative pronouns *who**, *that*, *which*, *whose*, *where*, *when*. They are most often used to define or identify the noun that precedes them. Here are some examples:

- Do you know the girl **who** started in grade 7 last week?
- Can I have the pencil **that** I gave you this morning?
- A notebook is a computer **which** can be carried around.
- I won't eat in a restaurant **whose** cooks smoke.
- I want to live in a place **where** there is lots to do.
- Yesterday was a day **when** everything went wrong!

* There is a relative pronoun **whom**, which can be used as the object of the relative clause. For example: *My science teacher is a person whom I like very much.* To many people the word *whom* now sounds old-fashioned, and it is rarely used in spoken English.

Relative pronouns are associated as follows with their preceding noun:

Preceding noun	Relative pronoun	Examples
a person	who(m)/that, whose	- Do you know the girl who .. - He was a man that .. - An orphan is a child whose parents ..
a thing	which†/that, whose	- Do you have a computer which .. - The oak a tree that .. - This is a book whose author ..

Note 1: The relative pronoun **whose** is used in place of the possessive pronoun. It must be followed by a noun. Example: *There's a boy in grade 8 whose father is a professional tennis player.* (There's a boy in grade 8. His father is a professional tennis player.)

Note 2: The relative pronouns **where** and **when** are used with place and time nouns. Examples: *FIS is a school where children from more than 50 countries are educated.* *2001 was the year when terrorists attacked the Twin Towers in New York.*

Some relative clauses are not used to define or identify the preceding noun but to give *extra information* about it. Here are some examples:

- My P.T. teacher, who came to Oman in 2008, likes to ride his mountain bike.
- The heavy rain, which was unusual for the time of year, destroyed most of the plants in my garden.



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- Einstein, who was born in Germany, is famous for his theory of relativity.
- The boy, whose parents both work as teachers at the school, started a fire in the classroom.
- My mother's company, which makes mobile phones, is moving soon from Frankfurt to London.
- In the summer I'm going to visit Italy, where my brother lives.

Note 1: Relative clauses which give extra information, as in the example sentences above, **must** be separated off by commas.

Note 2: The relative pronoun **that** cannot be used to introduce an extra-information (non-defining) clause about a person. Wrong: *Neil Armstrong, that was born in 1930, was the first man to stand on the moon.* Correct: *Neil Armstrong, who was born in 1930, was the first man to stand on the moon.*

There are two common occasions, particularly in spoken English, when the relative pronoun is omitted:

1. When the pronoun is the object of the relative clause. In the following sentences the pronoun that can be left out is enclosed in (brackets):

- Do you know the girl (who/m) he's talking to?
- Where's the pencil (which) I gave you yesterday?
- I haven't read any of the books (that) I got for Christmas.
- I didn't like that girl (that) you brought to the party.
- Did you find the money (which) you lost?

Note: You **cannot** omit the relative pronoun a.) if it starts a non-defining relative clause, or, b.) if it is the subject of a defining relative clause. For example, *who* is necessary in the following sentence: *What's the name of the girl who won the tennis tournament?*

2. When the relative clause contains a present or past participle and the auxiliary verb *to be*. In such cases both relative pronoun and auxiliary can be left out:

- Who's that man (who is) standing by the gate?
- The family (that is) living in the next house comes from Slovenia.
- She was wearing a dress (which was) covered in blue flowers.
- Most of the parents (who were) invited to the conference did not come.
- Anyone (that is) caught writing on the walls will be expelled from school.