

Relative Clauses

Relative Pronouns in Defining Relative Clauses

Defining relative Clauses

They give additional information but do not define

	Person	Object
Subject	who, that	which, that
Object	Ø, that, who, whom	Ø, which, that
Possessive	whose	whose, of which

who and **which** are more usual in written English whereas **that** is more usual in speech when referring to things.

Examples

That's the boy (Ø, that, who, whom) I invited to the party.

That is the house (Ø, that, which) I'd like to buy.

Non-Defining Relative clauses

They give detailed information defining a general term or expression

Relative Pronouns in Non-Defining Relative Clauses

	Person	Object
Subject	who	which
Object	who, whom	which
Possessive	whose	whose, of which

the relative pronoun can never be dropped in non-defining relative clauses



Relative Adverbs

A relative adverb can be used instead of a relative pronoun plus preposition.

This is the shop **in which** I bought my bike.
This is the shop **where** I bought my bike.

relative adverb	meaning	use	example
when	in/on which	refers to a time expression	the day <i>when</i> we met him
where	in/at which	refers to a place	the place <i>where</i> we met him
why	for which	refers to a reason	the reason <i>why</i> we met him

In defining relative clauses **why** and **when**, unlike **where** can be omitted

Example: *I'd like to know the reason (why) he decided not to come BUT! She always had wanted to go to a place where she could speak her native tongue*

When, where and why are not omitted in non-defining relative clauses

Relative clauses and prepositions

RELATIVE with preposition

a preposition in a relative clause appears together with the relative pronoun. In this case the pronoun must be either *whom* or *which*; never *that*, and since this is now formal usage, it would be unusual to use *who*.

Jack is the boy with whom Jenny fell in love.

but also you can hear

Jack is the boy whom Jenny fell in love with.

Jack is the boy who Jenny fell in love with.

Jack is the boy Jenny fell in love with.

Subject pronoun or object pronoun?

-If the relative pronoun is followed by a verb, it's a **subject pronoun** (they cannot be dropped in defining relative clauses)

-If the relative isn't followed by a verb (but by a noun or

pronoun) it's an **object pronoun** and can be dropped in defining relative clauses.



Non-defining- they go between commas
Defining- no commas

1 Write a relative pronoun or relative adverb

1- A castle is a place _____ a king or queen lives

2- An actress is a woman _____ plays in films or theatre plays

3- This is the girl _____ mother is from Spain

4- This is the time of the year _____ many people suffer from hayfever

5- The flowers _____ grow in the garden are very beautiful.

6- I cannot remember the reason _____ he did that

7- Jane, _____ mother is a physician, is very good at biology

8- She didn't see the snake _____ was lying on the ground.

9- Do you know the shop _____ Andrew picked me up?

2 Decide whether the relative pronoun is necessary or not

10- This is the picture **that** Susan painted _____

11- Do you know the man **who** is speaking on the phone? _____

12- We ate the sweets **which** my mother had bought _____

13- Is this the boy **who** plays the guitar? _____

14- This is the house **that** Mary bought last year _____

3 Complete the sentences using a relative clause

15- Violet and Sue are two girls (like dancing)

16- My mobile phone is something (be very important to me)

17- Peter is a friend of mine (live in London)

18- An airport is a place (planes land)

19- We ordered a book. (be very expensive)

4 Complete with who or whom

20- To _____ did you send that letter?

21- I've no idea _____ was standing by the lamp post when the robbery happened.

22- _____ did you see lurking around last night?

23- With _____ will she be going to the ball?

24- I just can't think _____ might have done such a thing.

25- _____ has left the fridge door open again?

26- He would not tell me _____ he saw in the shadows that horrible night.

27- We may never know _____ was responsible.

Key

1-where

2-who

3-whose

4-when

5-which

6-why

7- whose

8- which

9-where

10- it is not necessary

11-it is necessary

12- it is not necessary

13- it is necessary

14 it is not necessary

15- Violet and Sue are two girls who like dancing

16- My mobile phone is something that is very important to me

17- Peter is a friend of mine who lives in London

18- An airport is a place where planes land

19- we ordered a book which is very important

20- whom

21- who

22- whom

23- whom

24- who

25- who

26- whom

27- who