

GRAMMAR

RELATIVE CLAUSES



1. Match each relative pronoun to the type of noun that it refers to.

when • who • that • whose • which • where

1. people
2. things
3. places
4. time
5. possession

DEFINING AND NON-DEFINING RELATIVE CLAUSES

2. Read the examples. Then choose the correct option to complete the rules.

- a. *Baba didn't want a son who read poetry. (defining)*
- b. *Amir admired Rahim Khan, who could get away with criticising Baba. (non-defining)*

1. A defining / non-defining relative clause is essential to the meaning of the sentence.
2. A defining / non-defining relative clause adds non-essential information about the noun it describes.
3. We use commas to separate defining / non defining relative clauses from the rest of the sentence.

FORMAL AND INFORMAL STRUCTURES

3. Read the explanation and examples and choose the correct answer.

There are two ways to form a relative clause when the verb in the relative clause is followed by a preposition (*on, to, for, with*).

- a. *Amir was not the son for whom Baba had wished. (formal)*
- b. *Amir was not the son (who) Baba had wished for. (informal)*

1. In the formal / informal structure, the preposition comes before the relative pronoun.
2. In the formal / informal structure, the preposition comes after the verb.
3. In the formal / informal structure, we use the relative pronoun *whom* instead of *who*.

1. Complete the passage with the correct relative pronouns. Then listen and check your answers. There may be more than one correct answer.

FIFTY FINGERS



The Browns are an amazing family of five brothers and sisters ¹..... are all top-class piano virtuosos. They love playing together, so they've formed a quintet ²..... plays in concert halls all over the world. Each of them fell in love with the piano at the age of three, ³..... they had their first lessons. As children, they practised for six hours a day in their Utah, USA home, ⁴..... they had no less than five enormous grand pianos. They were the first five siblings ⁵..... ever studied together at New York's Juilliard School of Music, ⁶..... only the world's most talented students are accepted. The Browns are modest, optimistic people ⁷..... goal is to introduce classical music to the widest possible audience – especially young people, ⁸..... love to hear them play. Obviously their talent's in their genes, but they all say it was their parents' encouragement and support ⁹..... helped them the most.

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2. Complete the sentences with the correct relative pronouns. Add commas where necessary.

1. *The Kite Runner* is a novel millions of people have read and loved.
2. The story begins during Amir's childhood Afghanistan was a peaceful country.
3. The story is about Amir and Hassan was a servant in Amir's house.
4. The two boys loved Kabul's kite fighting competition took place every year.
5. The boy kite stayed in the air the longest was the winner of the competition.
6. Because of the war broke out when Amir was a teenager, he and his father became refugees.
7. Eventually they immigrated to the United States they built a new life.
8. They never forgot their country and the people they had left behind.

3. Look at your answers to Exercise 2. In which sentences can you omit the relative pronoun?

TIP RELATIVE PRONOUNS – In defining relative clauses, we can omit the relative pronouns *who*, *which*, *that* and *when* if they are not the subject of the clause.

4. Combine the sentences with defining or non-defining relative clauses. Add commas where necessary. Leave out the relative pronoun where possible.

1. The boy became my boyfriend. I met him on Facebook.
2. The engineer is a brilliant man. His plan was chosen.
3. This is the neighbourhood. I grew up here.
4. *Cat's in the Cradle* was written in 1974. It discusses the relationship between a father and his son.
5. We all love the cakes. You bake them.
6. I am grateful to my parents. They have always done their best for me.
7. We like to go on holiday in August. It's nice and warm then.
8. The lamp is broken again. You fixed it yesterday.

5. Combine the sentences using the formal structure.

1. We are finally having the holiday. We have been dreaming of it.
2. The woman is my mother. You are staring at her.
3. Matters are often ignored. Customers complain about them.
4. There are several people here. I haven't been introduced to them.
5. You have done me an enormous favour. I thank you for it.
6. Your spouse is the person. You will share your life with him.

6. Combine the sentences from Exercise 5 again, this time using the informal structure.

7. Choose one option and complete the sentences so they are true for you.

1. In my family, meals / holidays are a time when
2. We live / don't live in a street where
3. My grandparents / parents are people who
4. My parents rarely / often say things that
5. I dislike / enjoy visiting my relatives, whose

8. Write a sentence using a relative clause about three of the following topics.

- a cousin or sibling
- a recent family event
- a place your family went to on holiday
- a tradition in your family
- something your family did during your childhood

EXAM FOCUS

REWRITES: RELATIVE CLAUSES

In rewrites that involve relative clauses, find the noun or pronoun that the relative pronoun is replacing. Be careful not to repeat it.

This is a photograph. My mother took it. (that)

✓ *This is a photograph that my mother took.*

✗ *This is a photograph that my mother took it.*

Rewrite the sentences with the words in brackets. Do not change the original meaning of the sentences.

1. *The ring had belonged to my great-grandmother. I found it. (that)*
2. *We recently found a photo album. We enjoy looking at it. (which)*
3. *The place was quiet. He lived there. (where)*
4. *Thomas is a friend. I can always rely on him. (whom)*
5. *I can't wait till summer. I can go surfing then. (when)*
6. *I opened the door for my brother-in-law. He had come to help me. (who)*

1. Complete the passage with the relative pronouns below. There may be more than one correct answer.

where • which • that • who • when • whose

MORE THAN A MEAL

Family meals, a time ¹ the whole family gets together, are disappearing in many homes. Between parents ² work long hours and children ³ after-school timetables are filled with homework, friends, sport and other activities, it's often difficult for everyone to sit down together at the same time. However, some experts say the effort should be made. To begin with, a 1996 study found that family meals ⁴ included lively conversation promoted language development in young children. Furthermore, mealtimes can be a time for a family to bond through shared food and conversation. This may partly explain the results of two studies ⁵ were conducted in the USA in 2004 and involved more than 5,000 young people between the ages of 11 and 18. Both studies found a connection between frequent family meals and higher marks, as well as lower rates of depression, alcohol and drug abuse. In fact, in homes ⁶ two or fewer meals each week were eaten as a family, young people were nearly twice as likely to abuse drugs and alcohol as their peers ⁷ frequently ate with their families.



2. Complete the sentences with a suitable relative pronoun. Add commas where necessary. There may be more than one correct answer. In which sentences can you omit the relative pronoun?

- The play I saw last night was written by a teenager.
- Arnold Schwarzenegger became famous as the star of the Terminator films, is the governor of California.
- The week before exams is always a time I spend hours in the library.
- I'm reading about Steve Jobs was one of the founders of Apple Computers.
- Let's go to a nice place we can have coffee and dessert.
- Ellen father is a TV reporter is studying journalism at university.
- The sunglasses I bought on sale are the best pair I've ever had.

3. Rewrite the sentences with the words in brackets. Do not change the original meaning of the sentences.

- This is Linda. You will be working with her. (who)
.....
- I took a message for my sister. She was in the shower. (who)
.....
- He downloads the songs. He gets them free online. (that)
.....
- I'm looking forward to next week. We'll be on holiday then. (when)
.....
- The company was established in 1995. It has been particularly successful since 2004. (which)
.....

Combine the sentences with defining or non-defining relative clauses. Add commas where necessary. Leave out the relative pronoun where possible.

We're going to Chicago in December. It will be very cold then.

Steve is always taking photographs. He wants to become a professional photographer one day.

Here is the brochure about the holiday resort. We might go to it.

Sue's father is Japanese. Sue visits Japan every July.

Her car was a gift from her parents. It was stolen.

Pasta is a food. Most people like it.

I know the boy. He called you last night.

Here's the shop. I bought my new hat here.

That's the woman. Her purse was stolen.

This is the time. We usually meet at this time.

I'm still angry about the argument. I had it with my brother.

I stayed in the guest bedroom. It was very comfortable.

The tour guide finally arrived. We had been waiting for him.

I don't think that the new Johnny Depp film is very good. Everybody is talking about it.

Hugh is a guitarist. I often play basketball with him.

She works for the cruise company. It is based in Athens.

The girl is very beautiful. Everyone is talking about her.

Write sentences with the words and phrases in I, II and III. Use each word from II only once.

I	II	III
1. I thanked the teacher	which	we have final exams.
2. My parents showed me the hospital	when	had helped me.
3. There were some people	who	I wrote last night.
4. June is the month	whose	I was born.
5. I can't find the book report	where	training helped them survive.

Complete the sentences with the relative pronouns *when, which, whose, where* or *who*. Then, tick the sentences in which the relative pronoun may be replaced with *that*.

1. The tour _____ we took was fabulous!
2. David, _____ is good at history, helped me study for the exam.
3. I'll always remember the day _____ I scored my first goal.
4. My brother, _____ girlfriend is away, is coming to the film with us.
5. She's going to call the boy _____ she danced with at the club.
6. There's a great café in Sheldon Street _____ we can meet for lunch.
7. At 11.00, _____ you'll be driving home, it will be very dark.
8. The man _____ dog I found was extremely happy when I called.
9. This watch, _____ cost only £5, keeps perfect time.

Combine the sentences. Use relative pronouns. Make any necessary changes.

1. I finally listened to the Shakira CD. Jane gave it to me.

2. The band's drummer was ill. They had to cancel their performances.

3. My mother is a historian. She teaches at the university.

4. I enjoy walking in the morning. It is very quiet then.

5. The guide took us to many interesting places. Her tours are advertised on the Internet.

6. I know a great clothes shop. We can get real bargains there.

Complete the passage with *who, whom, which, where, whose* or *that*. There may be more than one possible answer.

TOURISTS – BE ON GOOD BEHAVIOUR ABROAD!

Tourism, (1) _____ is a multi-billion-pound industry, is an important part of many cities' economies. Generally, local residents of cities (2) _____ are popular tourist destinations are helpful and friendly to tourists. But tourists (3) _____ don't behave well when abroad can create resentment among locals, even those (4) _____ livelihoods depend on tourism. For example, hotel, pub and restaurant owners in Prague and Riga, (5) _____ many young British men and women go for pre-wedding weekend parties, have long complained about problems related to their drunken behaviour. And recently, residents of Venice (6) _____ complained about littering by tourists insisted that the authorities prohibit the sale of take-away food in the city's famous St. Mark's Square, and begin fining people (7) _____ litter. So remember, when you're abroad, you're a guest in a foreign country. Don't be one of the tourists about (8) _____ "ugly foreigner" stories are told.