

# Relative Clauses Explanation and Exercises pdf



## Relative clauses

Defining relative clauses with who, which, that, where, when or whose

### Use:

A We can use **defining relative clauses to identify which people we are talking about**. This can help to avoid confusion, especially in conversation:

I met Jenny Philips this morning. ~ Who's she? ~ She's the woman who came to the meeting with Jeff.

She's the one that I spoke to in the seminar room.

B We use **defining relative clauses to identify which thing we are talking about**. These might be the particular things we need to complete a task:

Can you bring me a hammer? ~ Which one? ~ The one

that I bought yesterday. ~ OK. Where is it? ~ It's in a box that's lying on the garage table.

1 If we use a sentence like:

Example: My teacher was very helpful.

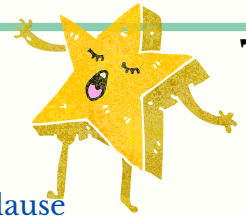
It may not be clear which teacher. We can make it clear like this:

The teacher **who/that taught me English** was very helpful.

**Who** is a relative pronoun and links the relative clause (**who taught me**) to the main clause (**My teacher was very helpful**).

The relative clause answers the question '**Which person/thing?**'. We call this a defining relative clause and we do not use commas (,):

The teacher was very helpful. ~ Which teacher? ~ The teacher **who/that taught me English**.



2 We use **who** or **that** to refer to people:

I thanked the man **who/that helped me**.

and **which** or **that** to refer to things:

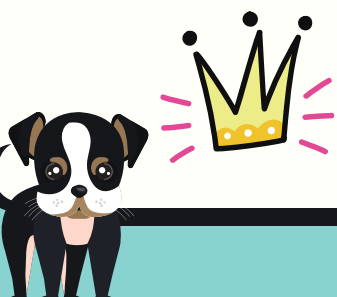
That's the medicine **which/that heals people**.



3 **Who, which** or **that** can be the subject of the relative clause:

Subject		
The athlete	<b>who</b>	won was very happy.
The athlete	<b>won</b> .	
That's the robot	<b>that</b>	talks.
The robot		talks.

Object		
The man	<b>who</b>	I helped was very thankful.
I helped	the man.	
They sold the house	<b>that</b>	she wanted.
She wanted	the house.	



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## Relative clauses

Defining relative clauses with **who**, **which**, **that**, **where**, **when** or **whose**

### Note:

In formal English, we can also use "**whom**" instead of "**who**", **when it is the object of the relative clause**: The man **whom** I helped was very thankful.

5 When **Who**, **which** or **that** is the object, we can leave it out:

The man I helped was very thankful.

They sold the house she wanted.

6 We use **whose** in place of the possessive adjectives **his**, **her**, **their**, etc.:

They interviewed a man **whose wife had disappeared**. (= His wife had disappeared.)

That's the girl **whose photo was in the paper**.

(= Her photo was in the paper.)

We only use **whose** with people, countries and organizations, not things or ideas.

7 **Where** refers to a place.

We went to a campsite **where** we stayed ten years ago.

(We went to a campsite. We stayed there ten years ago.)

8 We use **when** to refer to a time.

Is there a time (**when**) we can talk about this?

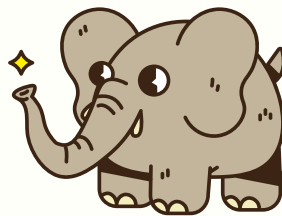
I'll never forget the day (**when**) I met you.

I remember the holiday **when** we went to Greece.

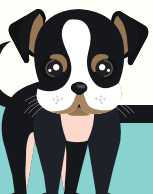
\* We can omit **when** after words which refer to time – the time, the day, the week, etc.

NOW  
THAT →  
IS SERIOUSLY  
EPIC

<http://concordhomework.co.uk>



PHANTASTIC



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