



Worksheet

Relative pronouns

Name :

Seven

Subject:

Class:

Date:

Relative pronouns and clauses

A relative pronoun is used to connect a clause or phrase to a noun or pronoun. The clause modifies, or describes, the noun.

The most common relative pronouns are **who, whom, whose, which, when and where** .

Relative pronouns are placed directly after the noun or pronoun they modify. For example:

The driver **who** ran the stop sign was careless.

Never go to a doctor **whose** office plants have died.

I have a friend **whose** cat is annoying.

The book, **which** is now out of print, has all the information you need.

Grandma remembers a time **when** radio shows were popular.

I want to visit the island **where** my grandma was born.

Defining vs. Non-Defining Relative Clauses

When relative pronouns are used to add descriptive information, that information is either defining or non-defining. A defining clause gives **essential** information about the noun in question. It is so important that it cannot be cut out of the sentence and still convey the intended meaning. For example:

This is the dog **that was hit by a car**.

I don't like people **who interrupt me**.

In both cases, the italicized clauses contain critical information. You can tell because if you cut out the clause, the sentence's meaning is fundamentally different. For example, saying "I don't like people" is very different from saying "I don't like people who interrupt me."

Note that defining clauses require no additional punctuation.

On the other hand, non-defining clauses add information that's nice to have but isn't essential to the sentence's overall meaning. They could be deleted and the sentence would convey basically the same information. For example:

This painting, **which I adore**, is worth over a million dollars.

The teacher, **who was about to retire**, began writing her memoirs.

In both cases, you could cut out the non-defining clause and still understand the point of the sentence. The important part is that the paint is worth a million dollars; the fact that it is adored is merely nice to know.

Note that non-defining clauses are set apart from the main sentence by commas, which help to indicate its less important status in the sentence.

Exercises

1. Fill in the blanks with: which or who

1 - A soldier is someone _____ works in the army.

2- A student is a person _____ goes to school.

3 - An ostrich is a bird _____ cannot fly.

4- A cook is someone _____ makes meals at a restaurant.

5- A tire is a thing _____ you can find on a wheel.

6- A stick is a piece of wood _____ is long and thing.

7 - Doctors are people _____ treat patients.

8 - All the words _____ exist in a language are called vocabulary.

9 - Our solar system is the collection of eight planets and their moons
_____ orbit the Sun.

10 - A sister-in-law is a woman _____ marries your brother or is your
husband's sister.

2. Fill in the blanks with the correct relative pronoun: who whose which when and where

1. My sister, _____ is now living in New York, has just had a baby.

2. Can you give me the number of the plumber _____ repaired your shower?

3. I'd like to eat at the restaurant _____ we met.

4. Thanks for the present _____ you brought us.

5. The car, _____ cost more than 20,000 dollars, was a present from his family.

6. The company, _____ workers are now being forced to stay home, will
probably go bankrupt.

7. This is the hotel _____ I work.

8. I'll always remember the day _____ we met.

9. Joe was carrying a gun, _____ was fortunate, because it saved our lives.

10. You should write a thank you email to the lady _____ helped you the night of
the accident.

11. Sony is building a robot _____ can form an 'emotional connection' with
humans.

12. Apple co-founder Steve Jobs, _____ died in October at the age of 56, had
cancer.

13. Can you give me back the book _____ I lent you last year?

14. Is that the man _____ house was destroyed by the hurricane?
15. Do you remember the summer _____ Jack came home by surprise.
16. Why don't we book a room at the hotel _____ we stayed last year?
17. Is that the boy _____ insulted you?
18. William Colgate, _____ name is on toothpaste tubes all around the world, left home because the family was very poor.
19. He took us into his house and gave us food, _____ was really nice of him.
20. That is the house _____ was destroyed by the earthquake.

3. Identify whether each sentence uses a defining or non-defining relative clause.

1. The book that I bought yesterday is very interesting.
2. My brother, who lives in Canada, is visiting us next week.
3. The girl who is wearing the red dress is my cousin.
4. Mount Everest, which is the highest mountain in the world, attracts many climbers.
5. This is the house where I grew up.
6. My car, which I bought last year, has already broken down twice.
7. People who work hard usually succeed.
8. Paris, which is the capital of France, is a popular tourist destination.

Your English teachers: Nayfeh Abu Hanna & Lara Bajjali

Education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today