



## 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.

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