

# RELATIVE CLAUSES

- Dependant clause (subordinate clause) that modifies a noun phrase or a noun.

**RELATIVE CLAUSE IS...**

- A pronoun that marks a relative clause within a larger sentence.
- It relates the relative (and hence subordinate) clause to the noun that it modifies.

**RELATIVE PRONOUN IS...**

Relative Pronoun	Use	Example
who	subject/object pronoun for people	That's the man <i>who</i> teaches.
which	subject/object pronoun for animals and things	There is a problem <i>which</i> worries me.
which	referring to a whole sentence	He eliminated the virus, <i>which</i> surprised us a lot.
whose	possession (for people, animals and things)	He went to a meeting <i>whose</i> purpose he didn't know.
whom	object pronoun for people	I was invited by the professor <i>whom</i> I met at the conference.
that	subject/object pronoun for people, animals and things in defining relative clauses (who or which are also possible)	I don't like the book <i>that</i> you read.

## RELATIVE PRONUNS

- Subject and object pronouns have the same form: *who*, *which* and *that*.

However, if a relative pronoun is followed by a verb, the relative pronoun is *a subject pronoun*. If a relative pronoun is not followed by a verb, but is followed by a noun or a pronoun, the relative pronoun is *an object pronoun*.

**Subject and object pronouns**

Give detailed information defining a general term or expression

Examples:

IBM computers *which are produced in USA* are the best.

My brother *who is an engineer* is a successful businessman.

**Defining Relative Clause**

Give additional information on something, but do not define it.

Examples:

IBM computers, which are produced in USA, are the best.

My brother, who is an engineer, is a successful businessman.

**Non-Defining Relative Clauses**

- Subject pronouns must always be used:

The instrument *which* is lying on the table is broken.

- Object pronouns can be omitted in defining relative clauses:

The instrument (*which*) Tom lay on the table is broken.

**Omission of relative pronouns**



- Defining relative clauses (identifying relative clauses) are not put in commas

My brother who lives in Sidney came to see me last month. (*I have three brothers. One of them lives in Sidney.*)

- Non-defining relative clauses (non-identifying) are put in commas

My brother, who lives in Sidney, came to see me last month. (*I have one brother only.*)

## Punctuation

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

## RELATIVE ADVERBS

1a. This is the shop *in which* I bought my bike.

1b. This is the shop *where* I bought my bike.

2a. I'll never forget the day *on which* I met you.

2b. I'll never forget the day *when* I met you.

## Relative Adverbs