

Relative clauses

- A relative clause usually begins with a relative pronoun: who or whom, which, that, whose.
- Relative clauses are used to describe people or things.
- There are two kinds of relative clauses: defining relative clauses and non-defining relative clauses.
- A defining relative clause is important for the meaning of the sentence. Without the relative clause the sentence would not make sense.
Defining relative clauses are not set off from the rest of the sentence by commas.
- In non-defining relative clauses the information is additional descriptive information.
The sentence is clear even without the relative clause.

Defining relative clauses	Examples
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The pronoun 'that, which, who(m)' can be left out if the pronoun is the object of the relative clause. This type of relative clause is known as a 'contact clause'. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The house that/which we live in is very old. or The house we live in is very old. - I am giving the job to the woman who I interviewed yesterday. or I am giving the job to the woman I interviewed yesterday. - This is the boy whose bike was stolen.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepositions usually come at the end of a defining relative clause in everyday English. 	This is the book (that) I have heard so much about.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In formal English, the preposition can be placed directly before the relative pronoun: 	This is the book about which I have heard so much.

Non-defining relative clauses	Examples
Non-defining relative clauses are set off from the rest of the sentence by commas.	My grandmother, who will be 85 in December, has asked me to take over the family farm.
In everyday English, a preposition is placed within or at the end of the relative clause.	My friend Janet, who I stayed with last summer, has just moved to Australia.
In formal English the preposition comes directly before the relative pronoun.	My friend Janet, with whom I stayed last summer, has just moved to Australia.