

RELATIVE CLAUSE

- A relative clause is used **AFTER** a **noun phrase** to add information to that noun phrase (Who? What thing? Which one exactly?).

Example:

I met **a man** **who is the CEO of this company**.
The people **whom I met last night** are from Germany.
Please throw me **the pen** **which is on the table**.

- Without** a relative clause, the sentence still needs to have at least a **COMPLETE CLAUSE**.

Example:

I met **a man** **who is the CEO of this company**. >> I met a man. [✓]
The people **whom I met last night** are from Germany. >> The people are from Germany. [✓]
Please throw me **the pen** **which is on the table**. >> Please throw me the pen. [✓]

- With** a relative clause, the sentence should have at least **TWO** clauses.

I. RELATIVE PRONOUNS WHO, WHOM, WHICH, THAT

Who	Whom	Which	Whose
<p>Who is used to replace HUMAN and functions as a SUBJECT:</p> <p><u>Example:</u> The man stole my wallet yesterday. He is wearing a blue coat.</p> <p>The man who stole my wallet yesterday is wearing a blue coat.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>The man who is wearing a blue coat stole my wallet yesterday.</p>	<p>Whom is used to replace HUMAN and functions as an OBJECT:</p> <p><u>Example:</u> I interviewed some of the witnesses. They do not remember anything about the crime.</p> <p>The witnesses whom I interviewed do not remember anything about the crime.</p> <p>[K-12 Notes]</p> <p>When the verb goes with a preposition, the preposition goes before whom.</p> <p><u>Example:</u> They discussed with the staff. He seemed to be nervous.</p> <p>The staff with whom they discussed seemed to be nervous.</p>	<p>Which is used to replace THING or EVENT, and functions as a SUBJECT or an OBJECT:</p> <p><u>Example:</u> The newspaper is on the table. Please give me it.</p> <p>Please give me the newspaper which is on the table. >> SUBJECT</p> <p>You took the newspaper earlier. Please give me it.</p> <p>Please give me the newspaper which you took earlier. >> OBJECT</p>	<p>Whose is used in place of a POSSESSIVE ADJECTIVE (my, your, his, her, their, our, its, name's)</p> <p><u>Example:</u> I met an English woman today. Her car was red.</p> <p>I met an English woman today whose car was red.</p>
<p>That is used to replace WHO/WHOM/WHICH and function as a SUBJECT or an OBJECT:</p> <p><u>Example:</u> I saw a man and a dog. They were playing Frisbee together in the park.</p> <p>I saw a man and a dog that were playing Frisbee together in the park.</p>			

❖ Notes:

In informal English, we can use **who** instead of **whom** if there's no preposition before it.

Example: I met the family yesterday. They are very nice people.

The family **whom I met yesterday** are very nice people.

The family **who I met yesterday** are very nice people.

I told the whole story with a police officer. He didn't seem to care.

The police officer **with whom I told the story** didn't seem to care. [✓]

The police officer ~~with who I told the story~~ didn't seem to care. [✗]

The police officer **who I told the story with** didn't seem to care. [✓]

That cannot go after a **comma (,)**

Example: Beethoven was a famous musician. He wrote Piano Sonata No.14.

Beethoven, ~~that~~ **who was a famous musician**, wrote Piano Sonata No.14.

That cannot go after **comma (,) + most of ..., all of ..., some of..., many of ..., two of ...**

Example: The man has five daughters. Three of them are doctors.

The man has **five daughters, three of whom are doctors**.

I have five cars. None of them is Lamborghini.

I have **five cars, none of which is Lamborghini**.

The company is going bankrupt. All of its employees will be jobless.

The company, **all of whose employees will be jobless**, is going bankrupt.

Cases when we often use THAT:

+ **With superlatives:**

Example: Landmark 81 has been built in Ho Chi Minh City. It is the highest building there.

Landmark 81 is **the highest building** **that has been built in Ho Chi Minh City**.

+ **With all (the) ..., the only ..., all, little, everything, anything, something, nothing** (EXCEPT FOR HUMANS)

Example: Having a normal family is the only thing **THAT** I wish for in life.

His parents give him anything **THAT** he wants.

Have you bought all the tools **THAT** we need for our fishing trip?

II. DEFINING AND NON-DEFINING RELATIVE CLAUSES

Defining relative clauses	Non-defining relative clauses
<p>Defining relative clauses are necessary for the sentence to have complete meaning and for the listener to understand fully. Defining relative clauses do not have commas (,).</p> <p><u>Example:</u> Many children in the region are diagnosed of Ebola. They are now being treated.</p> <p>Many children in the region who are diganosed of Ebola are now being treated.</p>	<p>Non-defining relative clauses can be omitted and the sentence still has complete meaning and the listener can still understand fully. Non-defining relative clauses have commas (,).</p> <p><u>Example:</u> Claire is one of my close friends. She works for a law firm.</p> <p>Claire, who is one of my close friends, works for a law firm.</p> <p>[K-12 Note]</p> <p>+ Common cases where we use ,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Names- Possessive Adjectives (my car, your dad, our teacher, ...)- This/That/These/Those- When both the speaker and the listener know which one in that space (the boy on the left, the student at the front row, the girl near the door, ...)

III. OMISSION OF RELATIVE PRONOUNS

We can omit OBJECT RELATIVE PRONOUNS **whom**, **which** and **that** when all these requirements are met:

- It's a **defining** relative clause.
- It does **not** follow a **preposition**.

Example: The boy is wearing a red T-shirt. I like him a lot.

The boy **whom I like a lot** is wearing a red T-shirt.

We are going abroad on a boat. I bought the boat last year.

We are **going abroad on a boat** **which I bought last year**.

IV. RELATIVE ADVERBS WHERE AND WHEN

<p>We can use when with adverbs of times and where with adverbs of places to make it clear which time or place we are talking about:</p> <p><u>Example:</u> I miss the time last year. I worked part-time as a waiter then.</p> <p>I miss the time last year when I worked part-time as a waiter.</p> <p>Do you remember the station? We caught the train there.</p> <p>Do you remember the station where we caught the train?</p> <p>[K-12 Notes]:</p> <p>We DO NOT rewrite the preposition in the adverbial phrase when using “where” or “when”.</p> <p><u>Example:</u> I study at a school. It is in District 3.</p> <p>The school where I study at is in District 3.</p> <p>To keep the meaning whole, we can use preposition + which.</p> <p>The school AT WHICH I study is in District 3.</p> <p>The well is in the middle of the village. People get water from it.</p> <p>The well FROM WHICH people get water is in the middle of the village.</p>	<p>[K-12 Notes]: “which” vs “where”</p> <p>We use which when the 'place' functions as a SUBJECT or an OBJECT.</p> <p>We use where when the 'place' functions as an ADVERB.</p> <p><u>Example:</u> Last summer I visited Nha Trang. I loved the place very much. >> OBJECT of “love”</p> <p>Last summer I visited Nha Trang, which I loved very much.</p> <p>Last summer I visited Nha Trang. It is a very beautiful city. >> SUBJECT</p> <p>Last summer I visited Nha Trang, which is a very beautiful city.</p> <p>Last summer I visited Nha Trang. I was born there. >> ADVERB OF PLACE</p> <p>Last summer I visited Nha Trang, where I was born.</p>
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