

Relative pronouns and Relative clauses

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Relative pronoun	Use	Example
Who	subject or object pronoun for people	I told you about the woman <i>who</i> lives next door.
Which	subject or object pronoun for animals and things	Do you see the cat <i>which</i> is lying on the roof?
Which	referring to a whole sentence	He couldn't read <i>which</i> surprised me.
Whose	possession for people animals and things	Do you know the boy <i>whose</i> mother is a nurse?
Whom	object pronoun for people, especially in non-defining relative clauses (in defining relative clauses we colloquially prefer <i>who</i>)	I was invited by the professor <i>whom</i> I met at the conference.
That	subject or object pronoun for people, animals and things in defining relative clauses (<i>who</i> or <i>which</i> are also possible)	I don't like the table <i>that</i> stands in the kitchen.

Relative Adverbs

- **A relative adverb can be used instead of a relative pronoun plus preposition. This often makes the sentence easier to understand.**
 - **This is the shop in which I bought my bike.**
→ **This is the shop where I bought my bike.**

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

Defining relative clauses

Use	Examples	Notes/Problems
To give essential information about a person, place, or thing.	<i>She's the woman who works with me.</i> <i>It's a book which tells you how to relax.</i> <i>That's the flat where Alice lives.</i> <i>That's the girl whose father is a film director.</i>	You can use that instead of who or which , especially when speaking, e.g. <i>She's the woman that works with me.</i>
who/which are often omitted when the verb after the relative pronoun has a different subject	<i>She's the girl (who) I met last night.</i>	The subject of <i>met</i> is <i>I</i> . whose and where can never be omitted

Non-Defining relative clauses

Use	Examples	Notes/Problems
<p>To give extra information about a person, place or thing.</p> <p>Use who, which, where, and whose.</p>	<p><i>Chester, where my parents live, is a beautiful town.</i></p> <p><i>Last week I saw my aunt, who's nearly 80 years old.</i></p> <p><i>This picture, which was painted in 1923, is worth millions of pounds.</i></p>	<p>Always put commas (or a comma and a full stop) before and after the clause.</p> <p>In these clauses who, which, where, and whose can't be omitted.</p> <p>! You can't use that instead of who/which.</p>

How to Shorten Relative Clauses?

- Relative clauses with *who*, *which*, *that* as subject pronoun can be replaced with a participle. This makes the sentence shorter and easier to understand.
- I told you about the woman *who lives* next door. – I told you about the woman *living* next door.
- Do you see the cat *which is lying* on the roof? – Do you see the cat *lying* on the roof?

A few notes

- We can use *Which* to refer to the whole previous clause or sentence:
 - *She passed away, which devastated her family.*
- In very formal English, we can use Preposition + Whom (not who):
 - *I am the person with whom not to mess here.*
- In spoken English, use prepositions at the end of the relative clause:
 - *He's the manager I spoke to on the phone.*

Exercises on Pronouns and Relative Adverbs

- Exercise on Relative Pronouns
- Subject Pronouns or Object Pronouns?
- Relative Pronouns – Necessary or not?
- Relative Pronouns – Necessary or not?
- Relative Adverbs