

# RELATIVE CLAUSES

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## RELATIVE CLAUSES 1 - DEFINING -

A clause is a part of a sentence. A relative clause tells us which person or thing (or what kind of person or thing) the speaker means.

The man **who lives next door** is very friendly.  
Relative Clause

The man **who lives next door**. (Who lives next door tells us which man)

## RELATIVE CLAUSES 2

- > The man **who lives in next door** is very friendly.
- > Where are the eggs **which were in the fridge**?

In these sentences **who** and **which** are subject of the verbs in the relative clauses.

The man **who** lives in next door. **He** is very friendly.  
Where are **the eggs**? **They** were in the fridge.



**YOU CANNOT LEAVE OUT WHO or WHICH IN THESE SENTENCES**

So **who** and **which** are objects of the verbs.

The man - I wanted to see **him** - was away on holiday.

The man **who** I wanted to see was away on holiday.

Have you found the keys? - You lost **them**.

Have you found the keys **that** you lost?

**WHEN WHO or WHICH ARE OBJECTS OF THE VERB IN THE RELATIVE CLAUSE, YOU CAN LEAVE THEM OUT.**

- > The man I wanted to see was away on holiday.
- > The dress Ann bought **doesn't** fit her very well.
- > Is there anything I can do?

## PREPOSITIONS IN RELATIVES

Do you know the girl? - Tom is talking **to** her.

- > Do you know the girl (who) Tom is talking **to**?
- > The bed - I slept **in** it last night - wasn't very comfortable.
- > The bed I slept **in** last night wasn't very comfortable.

## WHO (THAT) for PEOPLE

- > We know a lot of people. **They** live in London.
- > We know a lot of people **who** live in London.

## WHICH / THAT for THINGS

- > I don't like stories. **They** have unhappy endings.
- > I don't like the stories **that** have unhappy endings.
- > Where are the eggs? **They** were in the fridge.
- > Where are the eggs **which** were in the fridge?

## WHOSE for HIS /HER /THEIR

- > We saw some people - **their** car had broken down.
- > We saw some people **whose** car had broken down.

## WHERE for PLACES

The hotel - we stayed **there** - wasn't very clean.

The hotel **where** we stayed wasn't very clean.

## RELATIVE CLAUSES 3 - NON DEFINING -

The woman **who lives next door** is a doctor.

Have you found the keys **that you lost**?

In these sentences, the relative clauses tell us which person or thing the speaker means.

The house at the end of the street, **which has been empty for five years**, has just been sold.

Mrs. Morgan, **whose son is in our class**, is an English teacher.

In these sentences the relative clauses (which has been empty ... and whose son...) do not tell us which person or thing speaker means. We already know which person or thing is meant. The relative clauses in these sentences give us extra information about the person or thing.

In these - non defining- relative clauses you have to use **who** for people and **which** for things. You cannot use **that** and you cannot leave out **who** or **which**. When you write clauses like this you have to put commas (,) at the beginning and the end of the clause.

Mr. Jason, **who has worked for the company for 20 years**, is retiring next week.