

Relative clauses

Relative clauses are used to add information about nouns. They are introduced by relative pronouns.

- **who** refers to people
- **which** refers to animals, places or things
- **that** can refer to a person, place or thing

A Add the correct relative pronoun to the following sentences. In some sentences, there is more than one correct answer.

- 1 Babka lives in Zilina, which is a town in Slovakia.
- 2 That's the girl who lives near the park.
- 3 Demetri likes the book that is about African animals.
- 4 Mum is cross with the person who keeps leaving the door open.
- 5 She has lots of shirts but doesn't like the one that has blue spots.

B Sometimes a relative clause can be an embedded clause when it comes in the middle of a sentence. Add the correct relative pronoun to the following embedded clauses.

- 1 My grandad, who is 87, swims in the sea every day.
- 2 The old red house, which has been empty for years, is a bit spooky.
- 3 His most famous song, which was a great success, was written in half an hour.

C Complete these sentences.

- 1 They are going to move to Kuala Lumpur, which _____
- 2 On the way to school, we always see a _____
who _____
- 3 My wealthy uncle has a _____ which _____
- 4 I have been learning English, _____,
since I started school.
- 5 The Indian tiger, _____,
is a magnificent beast.



Relative clauses and relative pronouns

A **relative clause** can be used to give additional information about a noun.

A relative clause is introduced by a **relative pronoun**, such as 'which'.

The relative pronoun is used to refer back to the noun which has already been mentioned in the sentence.

Example: This is the brilliant book **which** I told you about.

Relative pronouns can describe people, things (including animals) and places.

Relative pronouns include:

- **who**, referring to people
- **which**, referring to animals, places or things
- **when**, referring to a time or time period
- **where**, referring to a place
- **whose**, the possessive form of 'who'
- **that**, referring to people, places or things.

- Look at multi-clause sentences
- Look at relative clauses and pronouns

A Match the beginning of the sentence with the correct ending.

She didn't know the person	whose brother went to school with me.
Leave your coats	when Lian gets here.
This is Marc	that I left on the chair?
What happened to the book	which she borrowed from Juray.
We're all going to the cinema	where you were told to.
Farah gave back the pencil	who sent her the flowers.

-She didn't know the person who sent her flowers.

-Leave your coats where you were told to.

-This is Marc whose brother went to school with me.

-What happened to the book that I left on the chair?

-We're all going to the cinema when Lian gets here.

-Farah gave back the pencil which she borrowed from Juray.

Relative clauses and relative pronouns


B Complete each of the sentences by adding one of the relative pronouns below. Each relative pronoun is used only once.

who which when where whose that

- 1 The park **where** we play football is next to Sam's house.
- 2 Is Dr Khan the guy **who** teaches Maths?
- 3 Who ate the apple **that** I left on my desk?
- 4 Pavel will go for lunch **when** he's finished the activity.
- 5 Can the child **whose** jumper is on the floor please pick it up?
- 6 This is the picture **which** Lola painted for my birthday.

C Complete these sentences with an appropriate relative clause.

- 1 That's the old woman ...
- 2 I like the film ...
- 3 The teacher asked a question ...
- 4 He has a pet ...
- 5 His aunty is the famous actress ...
- 6 We'll go on holiday ...


Stretch zone

Work in pairs. Choose a famous person. Write a simple statement such as: Harry Potter is a wizard. Take it in turns to add more information by using a relative clause. *For example:* Harry Potter is a wizard who attends Hogwarts. Harry Potter is a wizard who attends Hogwarts which is a kind of secondary school.

