

1. What are relative pronouns?

Relative pronouns **connect two sentences** and **give more information** about a noun.

Pronoun	Used for	Example
who	people	The man who lives next door is my teacher.
which	things or animals	The car which is parked outside is mine.
that	people, things, animals (in <i>defining clauses</i>)	The book that I bought is interesting.
whose	possession	The girl whose father is a doctor is my friend.
where	places	The restaurant where we met was expensive.
when	time	The year when I met you was amazing.

2. Types of relative clauses

2.1. Defining relative clauses

- They tell us which person or thing we mean.
- The information is necessary to understand the sentence.
- No commas.

Example: - The woman **who works at the bank** is my sister.
(We need that part to know which woman.)

-The car **that I bought** is red.

In defining clauses, you can use that instead of who or which:

- The man **that** lives next door is nice.
- The car **that** I bought is fast.

2.2. Non-defining relative clauses

- They give extra information.
- If you remove them, the sentence still makes sense.
- Use commas.

Examples: - My brother, **who lives in Canada**, is a doctor.
- This book, **which I read last week**, is excellent.

In non-defining clauses:

- You cannot use "that"
- You must use "who" or "which"
- You cannot omit the pronoun

3. When can we omit the relative pronoun?

You can omit the pronoun only if it is a defining clause, and the pronoun is the object, not the subject. This is, if the noun is receiving the action, not doing the action.

- The man **who lives next door** is nice. - The man who lives next door is the one who does the action.
- The book (**which / that**) **I read** was good = The book **I read** was good.
The book is the one that is being read, not the one who reads.

Other examples:

The movie (that) we watched was funny.

The dress (which) she bought is beautiful.