

## RELATIVE CLAUSES AND MODAL VERBS

### 1. Relative clauses.

#### Relative clauses

Relative clauses give us extra information about something/someone or identify which particular thing/person we are talking about. They are often introduced by the following words.

Use	Example
<i>which</i> (for things and animals)	Did you see the film <b>which</b> was on TV last night?
<i>who</i> (for people, and animals when we want to give them a personality)	Tom Davies, <b>who</b> is appearing in concert in Reading this week, is with me in the studio.
<i>when</i> (for times)	Do you remember the day <b>when</b> we met?
<i>where</i> (for places)	This is the place <b>where</b> they filmed Citizen Kane.
<i>why</i> (for reasons)	That's the reason <b>why</b> he's so popular.
<i>whom</i> (for people as the object of the relative clause)	Is that the man <b>whom</b> we saw at the cinema yesterday?
<i>whose</i> (for possession)	My next guest on the show is John Travolta, <b>whose</b> career goes back to the early seventies.

También podemos usar **'that'** como pronombre relativo. Usamos **that** **TAN SOLO** en las **defining relative clauses**. That puede sustituir a *who* o *which* cuando nos referimos a personas, animales y cosas, pero es más informal que *who* o *which*.

*She picked up the hairbrush **that / which** she had left on the bed.*

*He was the first director of the National Science Foundation, and he funded science research with an annual budget **that/which** grew to 500 million dollars.*

Hay dos tipos de **relative clauses**: defining and non-defining.

#### 1.1. Defining relative clauses.

#### Defining relative clauses

Defining relative clauses tell us which one of a group of things/people we are talking about. The sentence doesn't usually make complete sense without the relative clause.

Use	Example
To tell us which one of a group of things/people we are talking about	<i>The book <b>which</b> I've read was the best of all.</i> <i>The one <b>who</b> is wearing a blue shirt is Justin Timberlake, isn't it?</i>

**Watch out!**

- Defining relative clauses are not separated from the rest of the sentence by commas.
  - ✓ *This is the DVD **which** I told you about the other day.*
- We can also use *that* to introduce the relative clause.
  - ✓ *This is the DVD **that** I told you about the other day.*
- We can often leave out the word which introduces the relative clause when it is the object of the clause.
  - ✓ *This is the DVD I told you about the other day.*
- Notice that we do not need a preposition when we use *where* or *when*.
  - ✓ *The theatre **where** I first acted is somewhere around here.*
  - X ~~*The theatre **where** I first acted **in** is somewhere around here.*~~
  - ✓ *Do you know the year **when** the first western was made?*
  - X ~~*Do you know the year **when** the first western was made **in**?*~~

Tal y como pone en el recuadro, en este tipo de oraciones podemos eliminar el pronombre de relativo si se cumplen dos condiciones:

1. que el pronombre sea **who, which, that, when** or **why** /si es where, whose o whom NO )
2. que haya un sujeto después de donde debería estar el pronombre.

Ejemplo: That is the DVD **that** I told you about.

¿Podemos omitir el pronombre? veamos:

1. ¿Es uno de estos pronombres? who, which, that, when o why. Sí - that.
2. ¿Hay un sujeto después del pronombre? Sí: I told you about.

Entonces Sí podemos omitirlo:

That is the DVD I told you about.

## 1.2. Non-defining relative clauses.

**Non-defining relative clauses**

Non-defining relative clauses simply give us more information about something/someone. The sentence makes complete sense without the relative clause.

Use	Example
To give extra information about something/someone	<i>Ray Watson, <b>who starred in Bandits</b>, is considering making a film based on the life of Einstein.</i>

**Watch out!**

- Non-defining relative clauses are separated from the rest of the sentence by commas.
  - ✓ *Megamonsters, which was filmed in New York, is a very disappointing film.*
- We cannot leave out the word which introduces the relative clause and we cannot use the word *that* instead.
  - X ~~*Megamonsters, was filmed in New York, is a very disappointing film.*~~
  - X ~~*Megamonsters, that was filmed in New York, is a very disappointing film.*~~
- *Which* can refer back to the whole of the sentence.
  - ✓ *We finally got tickets for the concert, which was very lucky.*  
(It doesn't mean the concert was lucky. It means getting tickets for the concert was lucky.)

## 2. MODAL VERBS AND MODAL PERFECTS.

Los verbos modales son verbos que siempre **acompañan a otro verbo** para añadir un significado a mayores.

Los verbos a los que acompañan van siempre en **bare infinitive**. Es decir, infinitivo SIN "to".  
Ejemplo: *can jump*, **no can to jump**.

Los verbos modales no cambian su forma: no se les añade -s en la tercera forma de singular. Tan solo hay dos excepciones: *have to* y *need to*, que sí podrían ser "has to" o "needs to" y se ponen en pasado también (*had to/ needed to*).

Ejemplo: He *can play* guitar.  
He *needs to calm down*.

Los verbos modales añaden distintos significados al verbo al que acompañan y pueden expresar:

## 2.1. VERBOS MODALES.

### 2.1.1. Ability (habilidad)

- can: expresa habilidad en el presente o general. I can run a kilometre in four minutes.
- could: expresa habilidad en el pasado.: I could play guitar when I was little but now I forgot!

### 2.1.2. Permission (permiso)

- may / could / can : los usamos para pedir permiso en el presente, en el futuro o de manera general: May / Could / Can I see the doctor, please?

May es más educado que could, y could es más educado que can.

- be allowed to: expresa que algo o alguien está permitido/le está permitido hacer algo: You are not allowed to swim in the river!

### 2.1.3. Advice (consejo)

- Should / ought to: los usamos para dar y pedir consejos ahora, en el futuro o de manera general. You ought to /should watch this movie. It is amazing!  
Ought to es más formal que should y se usa más en Gran Bretaña que en Estados Unidos.

### 2.1.4. Obligation and necessity (obligación y necesidad).

- Must / have to / need to: expresan obligación o necesidad: I must listen to the teacher. I need to pick up my medicine from the chemist on the way home. I have to finish this before Monday.
- Needn't / don't have to / don't need to: expresan la falta de obligación o necesidad: You don't have to pick that up yet!
- Had to: expresa obligación en el pasado.

### 2.1.5. Possibility (posibilidad)

- May and might: expresan posibilidad. That may / might be dangerous!  
May es un poco más posible que might, pero se pueden usar indistintamente.

## 2.2. MODAL PERFECTS.

Los modales perfectos hacen referencia a eventos pasados. Tienen una estructura diferente a los modales normales:

Verbo Modal + HAVE + past participle (-ed / 3ªcolumna)

Estos son los verbos modales perfectos, sus usos y algunos ejemplos:

Verbo modal	Uso	Ejemplo	Traducción
Should have / shouldn't have / ought to have + participio	Para expresar criticismo o arrepentimiento después de una situación pasada que ya no puedes cambiar.	He should have listened to me! They should have won the match. You shouldn't have gone to the party.	Debería haberme escuchado. Deberían haber ganado el partido. No deberías haber ido a la fiesta.
Could have + participio	Posibilidad de haber podido hacer algo que finalmente no se hizo.	You could have gone to the party, but you chose to stay at home.	Podrías haber ido a la fiesta, pero decidiste quedarte en casa.
May/might have + participio	Una suposición sobre algo que pasó anteriormente. Cuando especulamos sobre algo.	She might have bought a new house!	¿Puede que se haya comprado una casa nueva!
Must have + participio	Certeza o conclusión lógica sobre un evento pasado.	The driver must have lost his way! They must have paid a lot for that rare album.	El conductor debe haberse perdido. Deben haber pagado un montón por ese álbum tan raro.
Would have + participio	Voluntad de hacer algo que finalmente no se hizo.	They would have rebuilt the theatre, but they lacked financial support.	Si fuese por ellos, habrían reconstruido el teatro pero no tenían apoyo financiero.
can't have / couldn't have + participio	Certeza de que algo es imposible que algo haya sucedido.	You can't have seen her in the city centre: she was on holidays in Italy!	No puedes haberla visto en el centro: ¡estaba de vacaciones en Italia!
needn't have + participio	una acción innecesaria en el pasado	Mary needn't have bought me any presents. She is so kind.	No hacía falta que Mary me comprase un regalo. ¡Es tan buena! Mary no tenía que necesitaba haberme comprado un regalo.