

Defining Relative Clauses

1 Join these sentences using a relative clause. If it is possible to omit the relative pronoun, write it in brackets.

- The man told me you were out. He answered the phone.
The man *who/that answered the phone* told me you were out.
- The boys have now been released. They were arrested.
The boys *who/that were arrested* have now been released.
- The police are still trying to identify the body. It was found last week.
The police *are still trying to identify the body which/that was found* last week.
- It seems that Earth is the only planet. It can support life.
It seems that *Earth is the only planet which/that can support* life.
- The pictures used to hang on that wall. Where are they?
Where *are the pictures which/that used to hang on that wall?*
- Most of the people couldn't come. I invited them to the party.
Most *of the people (who/whom/that) I invited to the party* couldn't come.
- The museum was shut. We wanted to visit it.
The museum *(which/that) we wanted to visit* was shut.
- I like Ann's dress. She's wearing it now.
I like *the dress (which/that) Ann is wearing* now.

2 Instructions as above.

- The bed was too soft. I slept in it.
The bed where I slept is too soft.
The bed (that/which) I slept in was too soft. / The bed in which I slept is too soft.
- I didn't get the job. I applied for it.
I didn't get the job (that/which) I applied for.
- The man has been married twice before. She is married to him.
The man (that/who/whom) she is married to has been married twice before.
- The party wasn't very enjoyable. We went to it.
The party (that/which) I went to wasn't very enjoyable.
- Who was that girl? You were with her last night.
Who was the girl (who/whom/that) you were with last night?
- The flight was fully booked. We wanted to travel on it.
The flight (that/which) we wanted to travel on was fully booked.
- I enjoy my job because I like the people. I work with them.
I enjoy my job because I like the people (that/who) I work with.
- They were talking about things. I wasn't interested in them.
They were talking about things (that/which) I wasn't interested in.
- The house is not in very good condition. I am living in it.
The house (that/which) I am living in is not in very good condition.

Non-Defining Relative Clauses

3 Write these sentences again together with a relative clause.

1 She showed me a photograph of her son. He is a policeman.
She showed me a photograph of her son, who is a policeman.

2 We decided not to swim in the sea. It looked rather dirty.
We decided not to swim in the sea, which looked rather dirty.

3 The new stadium will be opened next month. It holds 90,000 people.
The new stadium, which holds 90,000 people, will be opened next month.

4 That man over there is an artist. I don't remember his name. (use *whose*)
That man over there, whose name I don't remember, is an artist.

5 The storm caused a lot of damage. Nobody had been expecting it.
The storm, which nobody had been expecting, caused a lot of damage.

6 The postman was late this morning. He is always on time.
The postman, who is always on time, was late this morning.

7 We often go to visit our friends in Bristol. It is only 30 miles away.
We often go to visit our friends in Bristol, which is only 30 miles away.

8 I went to see the doctor. He told me to rest for a few days.
I went to see the doctor, who told me to rest for a few days.

9 Thank you for your letter. I was very happy to get it.
Thank you for your letter, which I was very happy to get.

10 Next weekend I'm going to Glasgow. My sister lives there.
Next weekend I'm going to Glasgow, where my sister lives.

4 Instructions as above.

1 This is a photograph of our friends. We went on holiday with them.
This is a photograph of our friends, who we went on holiday with.

2 The wedding took place last Friday. Only members of the family were invited to it.
The wedding, which only members of the family were invited to, took place last Friday. ...

3 I've just bought some books about astronomy. I'm very interested in it.
I've just bought some books about astronomy, which I'm very interested in.

Defining and Non-Defining Relative Clauses

5 Supply commas where necessary, and then complete the blank spaces with the relative between brackets wherever it can be omitted.

1 Robert's parents , *who* are both retired , live in Spain.

2 Have you still got the money (*that*) I gave you?

3 Sydney , *which* has a population of more than three million , is Australia's largest city.

4 Peter's sister , *who(m)* I've known for years , is a very nice person.

5 We saw Maria last night with the man *who* works in the library.

6 Is that the same song (*that*) we heard yesterday?

7 Sue , *who* has only been here for a week , speaks excellent English.

8 Who was the girl (*that*) you were speaking to just now?

9 My sister , *who* wasn't feeling very hungry , didn't want to go to the restaurant.

10 I've lost the money (*that*) you gave me.

11 Mr Woods , *who* lives next door to us , has gone on holiday.

12 Brighton , *which* is a tourist centre on the south coast , is about 85 km from London.

6 *that, who or what? If it is possible to write that or leave it out, write (that).*

1 She gives her children everything (*that*) they want.

2 Tell me *what* you want and I'll try to help you.

3 Why do you blame me for everything *that* goes wrong?

4 I won't be able to do very much but I'll do the best (*that*) I can.

5 I can't lend you any money. All *that* I've got is a pound.

6 Nora is the only person *that/ who* understands me.

7 Why do you always disagree with everything (*that*) I say?

8 I don't agree with *what* you've just said.

9 Did you hear *what* I said?

10 Everything (*that*) he said was true.

11 This is an awful film. It's the worst (*that*) I've ever seen.

Sentence reconstruction: Defining and Non-Defining.

- 7 Combine the following sentences using a relative pronoun. Make any other necessary changes.

- 1 We visited the town. It lies at the source of the Danube.
We visited the town that/which lies at the source of the Danube.
- 2 I know the girl. She is going to marry my cousin.
I know the girl who is going to marry my cousin.
- 3 He is a very funny person. I don't know anyone funnier.
I don't know anyone (who is) funnier than he is/ than him.
- 4 The old house on the hill has finally been sold. It was said to be haunted.
The old house on the hill, which was said to be haunted, has finally been sold.
- 5 This is the music. I've listened to it many times.
This is the music (that/which) I've listened to many times.
- 6 I met a friend last week. Her husband is an astronaut.
I met a friend last week whose husband is an astronaut.
- 7 Peter is going to marry a girl. Her sister is in my class.
Peter is going to marry a girl whose sister is in my class.
- 8 I will never forget the day. My eldest son was born that day.
I will never forget the day (when) my eldest son was born.
- 9 This is the school. I studied there as a child.
This is the school where I studied as a child.
- 10 I'd like you to meet Anna. You will be working with her in the future.
I'd like you to meet Anna, who(m) you'll be working with in the future.
I'd like you to meet Anna, with whom you'll be working in the future.
- 11 Here is a photograph of the hotel. We stayed there for a long weekend.
Here is a photograph of the hotel where we stayed for a long weekend.
- 12 New York is a wonderful city. I'd love to visit it one day.
New York is a wonderful city (that) I'd love to visit one day.

- 8 Join these pairs of sentences, beginning with the words given.

- 1 Ms Fortune was a writer. Her body was found in the cellar.
Ms Fortune, *whose body was found in the cellar, was a writer.*
- 2 I met an old friend. He told me all about a book he'd just read.
I met *an old friend who told me all about a book he'd just read.*
- 3 A car was stolen. It was found at the airport.
The car *which/that was found at the airport was stolen.*
- 4 You recommended that book to me. It was very good.
The book *(which/that) you recommended to me was very good.*
- 5 A simplified edition is easier to read than the original. It's shorter.
A simplified edition, *which is shorter, is easier to read than the original.*
- 6 I described a player to you yesterday. That's him.
He *is the player (who/m) I described to you yesterday.*
- 7 Steffi was born in this house.
This is *Steffi, who was born in this house.*
- 8 This is Sarah's boyfriend. I'm still friends with him.
This is *Sarah's boyfriend, who I'm still friends with.*
- 9 I used to go to that restaurant every day.
That's *the restaurant I used to go to every day. / where I used to go every day.*
- 10 I met that woman yesterday. I didn't like her.
I didn't like *the woman (who/m) I met yesterday.*
- 11 We had fish for dinner. It was really delicious.
The fish *(which/that) we had for dinner was delicious.*
- 12 I have been to many parties. The party last night was the best.
Last night's *party was the best (that) I have ever been to.*