

Relative clauses

1. Identifying:

- the information provided is necessary and cannot be omitted
- it is never separated with commas
The woman **who lives next door** is a doctor.
We met some people **whose car had broken down**.
- the used relative pronoun can be – among others – *that*
Rick sold the house **that** *his grandfather built*.
- if the relative clause has its own subject, the relative pronoun can be left out:
We stayed at the hotel **(that/which)** *Ann recommended to us*.
Your brother is the person **(who)** *I met yesterday*.
- the preposition in the relative clause can be put either after the verb,
I brought you the book *(that/which)* **I told you about**.
or before the relative pronoun (BUT it can never be *that!*)
I brought you the book **about which I told you**.
~~I brought you the book **about that** I told you.~~

2. Non-identifying:

- the information provided is supplementary and can be omitted
- it is separated with commas
My brother Jim, **who is a doctor**, lives in London.
Colin told me about his new job, **which he's enjoying very much**.
- *that* cannot be used as a relative pronoun here
We stayed at the Grand Hotel, **which** *Ann recommended to us*.
~~We stayed at the Grand Hotel, **that** *Ann recommended to us*.~~
- the preposition in the relative clause can be put either after the verb,
Mr Gray, **who you spoke to yesterday**, is our Personnel Manager.
or before the relative pronoun
Mr Gray, **to who(m) you spoke yesterday**, is our Personnel Manager.