

A Relative clauses

- Relative clauses are short phrases beginning with words like *who*, *that* and *which* that define or describe people and things. There are two types:
- Defining relative clauses: we use these to identify exactly which person or thing we mean.
The candidate who we interviewed on Friday is better than this one.
The relative clause is part of the noun phrase. The information is necessary for the sentence to make sense.
- Non-defining relative clauses: we use these to add extra information about a person or thing.
Capellas, whose father was a Greek immigrant who entered the United States after World War II, returned yesterday to Greece on a business trip. (International Herald Tribune website)
The information may be interesting, but it is not a necessary part of the sentence. To show this in writing we use commas.
Non-defining clauses are more common in writing. In speech, we often give the same information by just using two short sentences. Compare:
The salesman, who was very helpful, said this model was in stock. (writing)
'The salesman was very helpful. He said this model was in stock.' (speech)

B Relative pronouns

- The words *who*, *which*, *that*, *whom* and *whose* can begin a relative clause. They are called relative pronouns.
- For people both *who* and *that* are used, but *who* is more common.
The candidate who they chose for the job has a finance background.
- For things or ideas both *which* and *that* are used, but *that* is more common, especially in speech.
The products that you ordered were sent today.
The food sector faces another problem. In order to participate in the EU's single market it will have to conform to the Common Agricultural Policy, which makes up 40% of all EU regulations. (Business Central Europe website)
The fight for survival of daily business will be won by the organizations that adapt most successfully to the new world that is developing. (BusinessWeek website)
- The relative pronoun *whose* shows that something belongs to someone or something.
I've invited to the meeting everyone whose work is relevant to this project.
The European Union is an organisation whose policies change quite slowly.
He owns 100 per cent of this company, whose sales hit close to \$3 million in 1998. (Asia, Inc. website)
- In formal English it is possible to use *whom* instead of *who* where *who* is the object of the sentence. But in modern English most speakers only use *who*.
The candidate who/whom we chose for the job has an MBA in corporate finance.

Where

You can use *where* in a relative clause to talk about a place:

→ The hotel – we stayed **there** – wasn't very clean
→ The hotel **where** we stayed wasn't very clean.

- I recently went back to the town where I was born. (or ...the town I was born in. or ...the town that I was born in.)
- I would like to live in a country where there is plenty of sunshine.

Whose

We use *whose* in relative clauses instead of *his/her/their*:

we saw some people – **their** car had broken down
→ We saw some people **whose** car had broken down.

We use *whose* mostly for people:

- A widow is a woman whose husband is dead. (her husband is dead)
- What's the name of the man whose car you borrowed? (you borrowed his car)
- A few days ago I met someone whose brother I went to school with. (I went to school with his/her brother)

Compare *who* and *whose*:

- I met a man who knows you. (*he* knows you)
- I met a man whose sister knows you. (*his sister* knows you)

A Combining sentences

- Look at this example of two short separate sentences.
I'm taking a flight. It goes via Frankfurt.

We can combine the sentences using a relative clause. There are two ways, but the meanings are the same.

- a) *I'm taking a flight that goes via Frankfurt.*
- OR
- b) *The flight (that) I'm taking goes via Frankfurt.*

C Leaving out the relative pronoun in a defining relative clause

- We can leave out *who*, *which*, *that* (but not *whose*) in a defining relative clause if they are followed immediately by a noun or pronoun.
The technician (who) Tony spoke to said the network was working fine.
The salad (which/that) I had for my starter was superb.
This is usual in spoken English.
- We must keep the relative pronoun if it is followed immediately by a verb.
The technician who spoke to Tony said the network was working fine.
The salad which/that came with the fish was superb.

D Non-defining relative clauses

- We must keep the relative pronoun in non-defining clauses. We cannot leave it out (it makes no difference whether it is followed by a noun or a verb).
The technician, who my colleagues know well, said the network was working fine.
The technician, who spent over an hour here, said the network was working fine.
The salad, which he'd spent hours preparing, was superb.
The salad, which had avocado in it, was superb.
- That* is never used in a non-defining relative clause.
Chile, which is an important market for us, is having some currency problems.

E Relative pronouns and prepositions

- Normally we put prepositions at the end of the relative clause.
a) *The person (who) I got these figures from said they were accurate.*
b) *Unilever is a company (that/which) we know quite a lot about.*
c) *The person (who) I spoke to was called Pam.*
- But in formal English it is possible to put prepositions in front of *whom*, *which* and *whose* (but not *who* or *that*). Compare with the previous examples:
a) *The person from whom I got these figures said they were accurate.* (formal, rare)
b) *Unilever is a company about which we know quite a lot.* (formal, rare)
c) *The person to whom I spoke was called Pam.* (incorrect)
- We do not put another pronoun after the preposition.
(NOT *Unilever is a company that we know quite a lot about it.*)

D Relative clauses with a participle (-ing, -ed)

- The relative clause can have a continuous verb form (with an *-ing* ending) or a passive verb form (with an *-ed* ending).
The people who are making real decisions are all at Head Office.
The products that were attracting most interest were the smaller, lighter models.
Passengers who are seated in rows J-P can now board the aircraft.
Food which is sold in supermarkets needs a relatively long shelf-life.
- In these cases we can simplify the sentence by leaving out both the relative pronoun and the verb *be*.
The people making the real decisions are all at Head Office.
The products attracting most interest were the smaller, lighter models.
Passengers seated in rows J-P can now board the aircraft.
Food sold in supermarkets needs a relatively long shelf-life.
Asda, now owned by Wal-Mart, is keen to increase the space in its stores devoted to household goods, electricals and entertainment products. (Independent website)

Exercise 2 B

Complete the sentences with *who*, *whose* or *that*.

- 1 The customer whose company I visited is phoning this afternoon.
- 2 The manual they sent explains everything.
- 3 It's difficult to say this fax was sent by.
- 4 The candidates CVs I looked at this morning were all very good.
- 5 I don't remember I spoke to when I called yesterday.
- 6 Your colleague, I met this morning, had a different opinion.
- 7 Toyota is a manufacturer reputation is excellent all over the world.
- 8 The contract you showed me before was different to this one.
- 9 I can't remember I invited to the meeting.
- 10 Do you know Catherine works for?
- 11 The consultant, seems very young, is speaking to Martin Sommer.
- 12 They promoted the manager sales team was most successful.

Exercise 3 C D

Put a bracket around the relative pronoun if you can leave it out. Put a tick at the end if you must keep the relative pronoun.

- 1 The book (that) you lent me about e-commerce is really interesting.
- 2 The company which is our main competitor is Apollo. ✓
- 3 The name which they chose for the new model is Prima.
- 4 The meeting room, which wasn't very large, became hot and stuffy.
- 5 In the end, the sales campaign was the best that we'd ever had.
- 6 These are the people whose names appear on the database.
- 7 The people who attended the presentation found it very useful.
- 8 The supplier who we visited last week had better quality than this one.
- 9 Richard Branson, who started with almost nothing, is a typical entrepreneur.
- 10 *Newsweek* is the English-language magazine that I read most often.

Exercise 3 B C unit 28

Underline the correct words. This exercise includes some revision of unit 28.

- 1 The flight which/who I'm taking leaves from Terminal 2.
- 2 She's from the company which/whose products we distribute.
- 3 Everyone who/which was at the meeting will receive a copy of the minutes.
- 4 Message. To whom/who it may concern: please do not leave dirty coffee cups here.
- 5 There were some interesting ideas at the meeting that/what I went to.
- 6 It's not the first time that/what they've done this.
- 7 That/What I like best about my job is the contact with people.
- 8 Has anybody seen the folder what/that I left on this desk?
- 9 The room where/that I work has very little natural light.
- 10 The room where/that I work in has very little natural light.

Exercise 4 E

Rewrite the formal sentence as everyday informal sentences, beginning as shown.

- 1 These are the colleagues with whom I went to the conference.
These are the colleagues I went to the conference with.
- 2 This is the breakthrough for which we have been waiting.
This is the breakthrough we
- 3 That's the hotel at which I stayed.
That's the hotel I
- 4 When I call the accountants, Richard is the person with whom I usually deal.
When I call the accountants, Richard is the person I
- 5 This is the catalogue from which we choose the samples.
This is the catalogue we
- 6 This is the area for which I am responsible.
This is the area I

Exercise 5 A

35 Complete the article by writing relative clauses based on the notes below. Begin with either *who* or *which*.

The Battle for GUCCI

In 1999 Bernard Arnault's LVMH fought a battle to take over Gucci. (1) which was run by Domenico De Sole. De Sole received news that LVMH, (2), had bought 5% of its shares. This was going to be the battle (3), De Sole gathered together a team of people (4), It included American lawyer Allan Tuttle and Bob Singer, (5), There were two options: either negotiate

with Arnault and sell the business, or defend Gucci by finding a friendly 'white knight' to rescue them. They decided to fight. The models at the Gucci men's show in January 1999 had white faces and teeth like Dracula, (6), Meanwhile Arnault had accumulated shares (7), The

white knight (8) arrived in the form of Francois Pinault, (9), PPR was very successful in Europe, but Pinault wanted a chance to build a global group. Pinault agreed to invest US\$3 billion, (10), In return Pinault's group gained representatives on a new strategic committee, but he agreed to leave control of the company with De Sole and the senior Gucci team. ■

- 1 LVMH fought a battle with Gucci. Gucci was run by Domenico De Sole.
- 2 LVMH had bought 5% of Gucci's shares. LVMH was the largest luxury goods company in the world.
- 3 This was going to be a battle. It would decide the future of the industry.
- 4 De Sole gathered together a team of people. He could trust them.
- 5 Bob Singer was in the team. Bob Singer was the chief financial officer.
- 6 The models looked like Dracula. This was meant to be a message for Arnault.
- 7 Arnault accumulated shares. They represented 34% of Gucci's total stock.
- 8 A white knight arrived. Gucci had been looking for one.
- 9 Francois Pinault was the white knight. He was the head of a non-food retail group called PPR.
- 10 Pinault invested US\$3 billion. This was a 42% share in Gucci.

Exercise 1 A

Combine each pair of sentences by including the word given in brackets.

- 1 Last year we introduced a new line. It's aimed at the youth market. (that)
The new line that we introduced last year is aimed at the youth market.
- 2 I'd like you to meet a colleague. He could be a useful contact for you. (who)
I'd like you to meet a colleague
A candidate's CV is on your desk. She deserves an interview. (whose)
The candidate deserves an interview.
- 3 A visitor is coming next week. She's from our Paris office. (who)
The visitor is from our Paris office.
- 4 Tom took me to a restaurant. It was called 'Noodle Heaven'. (that)
The restaurant was called 'Noodle Heaven'.
- 5 I heard a man's presentation. He was an investment banker. (whose)
The man was an investment banker.
- 6 Here is a mobile phone. I was telling you about it. (that)
Here is the mobile phone
- 7 Over there is a site. They're going to build a new factory. (where)
The site is over there.

92.4 Put in **that** or **what**. If the sentence is complete with or without **that**, write (**that**) – in brackets.

- 1 I gave her all the money **(that)** I had.
- 2 They give their children everything they want.
- 3 Tell me you want and I'll try to get it for you.
- 4 Why do you blame me for everything goes wrong?
- 5 I won't be able to do much but I'll do the best I can.
- 6 I can only lend you ten pounds. It's all I've got.
- 7 I don't agree with you've just said.
- 8 I don't trust him. I don't believe anything he says.

94.2 Read the information and complete the sentences. Use a relative clause. Sometimes the clause tells us which thing or person (Type 1); sometimes it only gives us extra information (Type 2). Use commas where necessary.

- 1 There's a woman living next door. She's a doctor.
The woman **who lives next door is a doctor.**
- 2 I've got a brother called Jim. He lives in London. He's a doctor.
My brother Jim **who lives in London, is a doctor.**
- 3 There was a strike at the car factory. It lasted ten days. It is now over.
The strike at the car factory
- 4 I was looking for a book this morning. I've found it now.
I've found
- 5 London was once the largest city in the world, but the population is now falling.
The population of London
- 6 A job was advertised. A lot of people applied for it. Few of them had the necessary qualifications. Few of
- 7 Margaret has a son. She showed me a photograph of him. He's a policeman.
Margaret showed me

94.3 In some of these sentences you can use **which** or **that**; in others, only **which** is possible. Cross out **that** if only **which** is possible. Also, put commas (,) where necessary.

- 1 Jane works for a company **which / that** makes shoes. (both possible, no commas)
- 2 Colin told me about his new job **, which / that** he's enjoying very much. (only **which** is possible; comma necessary)
- 3 My office **which / that** is on the second floor of the building is very small.
- 4 The office **which / that** I'm using at the moment is very small.
- 5 She told me her address **which / that** I wrote down on a piece of paper.
- 6 There are some words **which / that** are very difficult to translate.
- 7 The sun **which / that** is one of millions of stars in the universe provides us with heat and light.

96.3 Complete the sentences using one of the following verbs in the correct form:
blow call ~~invite~~ live offer read ~~ring~~ sit study work

- 1 I was woken up by a bell **ringing**...
- 2 A lot of the people **invited** to the party cannot come.
- 3 Life must be very unpleasant for people near busy airports.
- 4 A few days after the interview, I received a letter me the job.
- 5 Somebody Jack phoned while you were out.
- 6 There was a tree down in the storm last night.
- 7 When I entered the waiting room it was empty except for a young man by the window a magazine.
- 8 Ian has got a brother in a bank in London and a sister economics at university in Manchester.

93.3 Complete each sentence using **who/whom/whose/where**.

- 1 What's the name of the man **whose** car you borrowed?
- 2 A cemetery is a place people are buried.
- 3 A pacifist is a person believes that all wars are wrong.
- 4 An orphan is a child parents are dead.
- 5 The place we spent our holidays was really beautiful.
- 6 This school is only for children first language is not English.
- 7 I don't know the name of the woman to I spoke on the phone.

Translate the following sentences into English:

Chtěl bych potkat každého, kdo je tvým přítelem.

Pracujeme ve společnosti, jejíž vedení bylo loni znovu zvoleno.

Tato fúze byla špatně zorganizovaná, což mě velmi rozčílilo.

Viděla jsem nové laptopy, s nimiž budeme pracovat.

Místo, kde jsme se minule setkali, je na druhém břehu řeky.

Mám tři bratry, z nichž jeden pracuje jako účetní v bance.

Písnička, kterou obvykle poslouchám, je už 10 let stará.

Na Vánoce pojedeme do Paříže, která bude určitě nádherná.

Tvoje auto, které je zaparkované u hotelu, bylo velmi špinavé.

Dostávám víc práce, s čímž absolutně nesouhlasím.