

## 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)

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 Velikonoce pojedeme do Paříže, která bude určitě nádherná.

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

Dostávám víc práce, s čímž absolutně nesouhlasím.