

RELATIVE PRONOUNS AND CLAUSES

I.

Relative pronouns: *who, where, which, when, whose, why, that, whom*

- help us to join clauses (*věta v souvětí*) together

Remember:

- ***whom*** is rarely used in spoken English. Usually we use ***who*** or leave out the pronoun.

The girl (***who***) you were talking to is my cousin.

- ***whom*** is also used after prepositions in formal writing.

The man ***to whom*** you spoke to was my manager.

But in everyday speech:

The man ***who*** you spoke to ...

It is also used as an introduction to impersonal letters:

To whom it may concern.

II.

DEFINING AND NON-DEFINING CLAUSES

- defining relative clauses give information **ESSENTIAL** to the meaning of the sentence.
- it **CANNOT** be left out
- we **DO NOT USE COMMAS**

He gave me the file ***which had their account details in it.***

(not a file with any other information in it)

- non-defining relative clauses give us **EXTRA** information about the subject or the object
- **without it** the sentence will still carry the main meaning
- we **USE COMMAS**

He gave me the file, ***which was very heavy,*** with their account details in it.

Remember: In speech we tend **NOT** to use non-defining clauses because they sound **TOO FORMAL.**

1. Do you know anyone **who / that speaks** French or Italian?
2. Barbara works for a company **which / that** makes machines.
3. John, **who (NOT that)** speaks French and Italian, works as a tourist guide.
4. Colin told me about his new job, **which (NOT that)** he' s enjoying very much.

1a. We stayed at the hotel **(that / which)** Ann recommended.

1b. We stayed at the Grand Hotel, which Ann recommended to us.

2a. This morning I met somebody **(that / who)** I hadn't seen for ages.

2b. This morning I met Diane, **whom / who** I hadn't seen for ages.

WHO or WHICH **cannot** be left out in non-defining clauses.