

RELATIVE CLAUSES

A relative clause tells us which person or thing the speaker means.

Use:

who (or **whom** – with a preposition) or **that** for people

which/that for things

whose in the meaning of a possessive pronoun

what in the meaning: the thing/s that e.g. *Did you hear **what** (the thing that) they said?*

where when talking about places

We say *the day, the time, the year **that** something happens*

or without that: *Do you remember the day (**that**) we met?*

We say *the reason **why** or **that** or without: The reason (that, why) I am phoning is...*

Who, that and which can be only omitted when they are the **object** of the verb in the relative clause. Compare:

*The man **who** lives next door is very friendly. (NOT: The man lives next door is very friendly.)*

The man I wanted to see was away.

Relative clauses are classified as

1. **defining** – giving information that cannot be omitted:

We know a lot of people who live in London.

My brother who lives in Prague is a surgeon. (= I have more brothers)

2. **non-defining** – giving extra information (commas are used to separate the relative clause from the rest of the sentence):

- **that** cannot be used

- **who** or **which** cannot be omitted

My brother Jim, who lives in London, is a doctor.

My brother, who lives in London, is a doctor. (= I have only one brother)

EXERCISES:

A/ Leave out *who* or *that* where possible:

1. The woman who lives next door is a doctor.
2. The people who we met at the party were very friendly.
3. The people who work in the office are very friendly.
4. What have you done with the money that I gave you?
5. What happened to the money that was on the table? Did you take it?
6. It was an awful film. It was the worst film that I've ever seen.
7. It was an awful experience. It was the worst thing that has ever happened to me.
8. The girl who was injured is now in hospital.
9. Barbara works for a company that makes washing machines.

B/ Put in *that* or *what*:

1. I gave her all the money..... I had.
2. Tell me you want and I'll try to get it for you.
3. Why do you blame me for everything..... goes wrong?
4. I won't be able to do much but I'll do the best I can.
5. I don't agree with you've just said.
6. I can only lend you ten pounds. It's allI've got.
7. I don't trust him. I don't believe anything he says.
8. Do you still remember the day we first met?

C/ Complete each sentence using *who/whom/whose/where*:

1. What's the name of the mancar you borrowed?
2. A cemetery is a placepeople are buried.
3. A pacifist is a person believes that all wars are wrong.
4. An orphan is a child parents are dead.
5. This school is only for children first language is not English.
6. I don't know the name of the woman to I spoke on the phone.
7. I recently went back to the townI was born.
8. I met a man.....works in a circus.
9. The place we spent our holidays was really beautiful.
10. The woman withhe fell in love left him.