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|  | example sentences  S=subject, O=object, P=possessive | | notes |
| **defining relative clauses** | S | - The person **who** phoned me last night is my teacher. - The person **that** phoned me last night is my teacher. | **That** is preferable |
| - The car **which** hit me was yellow. - The car **that** hit me was yellow. | **That** is preferable |
| O | - The person **whom** I phoned last night is my teacher. - The people **who** I phoned last night are my teachers. - The person **that** I phoned last night is my teacher. - The person I phoned last night is my teacher. | **Whom** is correct but formal. The relative pronoun is optional. |
| - The car **which** I drive is old. - The car **that** I drive is old. - The car I drive is old. | **That** is preferable to **which**. The relative pronoun is optional. |
| P | - The student **whose** phone just rang should stand up. - Students **whose** parents are wealthy pay extra. |  |
| - The police are looking for the car **whose** driver was masked. - The police are looking for the car **of which** the driver was masked. | **Whose** can be used with things. **Of which** is also possible. |
| **non-defining relative clauses** | S | - Mrs Pratt, **who** is very kind, is my teacher. |  |
| - The car, **which** was a taxi, exploded. - The cars, **which** were taxis, exploded. |  |
| O | - Mrs Pratt, **whom** I like very much, is my teacher. - Mrs Pratt, **who** I like very much, is my teacher. | **Whom** is correct but formal. **Who** is common in spoken English and informal written English. |
| - The car, **which** I was driving at the time, suddenly caught fire. |  |
| P | - My brother, **whose** phone you just heard, is a doctor. |  |
| - The car, **whose** driver jumped out just before the accident, was completely destroyed. - The car, the driver **of which** jumped out just before the accident, was completely destroyed. | **Whose** can be used with things. **Of which** is also possible. |

\*Not all grammar sources count "that" as a relative pronoun.   
\*\*Some people claim that we cannot use "that" for people but must use "who/whom". There is no good reason for such a claim; there is a long history of "that" for people in defining relative clauses from Chaucer, Shakespeare and the Authorized Version of *The Bible* to *Fowler's* and Churchill.

Taken from: <https://www.englishclub.com/grammar/pronouns-relative.htm>