80 Describing clauses

1 Look at the clauses in Unit 72. You use these relative clauses to identify the person or thing you are talking about:

A: I saw a friend of yours today. B: Who was that?

A: That man who worked with you in Manchester. B: Oh, you mean George.



2 You also use relative clauses to tell you more about the person or thing you are talking about:



Once upon a time there was a little girl called Red Riding Hood, who lived in a little house in the forest with her mother and father.



There was a wicked wolf, who wanted to catch Red Riding Hood and eat her up.

I bought the car from Professor Jones, who lives just across the road.

They go to the King's School, which is quite close to home.

These relative clauses are 'describing clauses'. You always start a describing clause with a relative pronoun. You use who to talk about people and which to talk about things:

She works with Alex, who used to go to school with her brother.

I teach at the University, which is in the centre of town.

WARNING: You do not use that in describing clauses.

3 You can use when and where in describing clauses to talk about times and places:

We haven't seen them since January, when we were on holiday together. They live in Birmingham, where Rebecca was born.

4 You can use a describing clause with which to say something about a situation:

I've lost my key, which is very annoying. He shouted at us, which was very rude.

4 They got married in 1938, ____ (They left University in 1938.) 5 My mother was born in Bournemouth, _ (Bournemouth is in the south of England.)

80	Practice	

A Complete these sentences using who, which,	when or where:
1 Tomorrow we are going to Leeds,where Wil	lliam and Jenny live.
2 On Tuesday it's the carnival,everyboo	dy gets dressed up in a fancy costume.
3 We'll meet at Wendy's house, is about	ut a couple of miles out of town.
4 This is the store room,we keep most	t of our equipment.
5 I'll introduce you to Monica, has the	
6 It's time for our coffee break,we mee	
7 He stays at home and looks after the children,	
8 This is Dan,works here on Mondays	and Wednesdays.
B Match these parts to make sentences. Some difficult:	of them you will know, but some are very
1 We spent a week in Stratford-on Avon,	a where we saw the Parthenon.
2 I am reading about Marconi,	b which is a kind of cheese.
3 They live in Brussels,	c who discovered America.
4 John Logie Baird was a Scotsman,	d when we celebrate carnival.
5 You could come in December,	e where William Shakespeare was born.
6 It's a haggis,	f who discovered radium.
7 Valladolid is the birthplace of Cervantes,	g which is a very popular dish in Scotland.
8 We change planes in Canberra,	h who invented the radio.
9 We stopped off in Athens,	i when we celebrate Christmas.
10 This book is about Christopher Columbus, 11 This is gorgonzola,	j where the European Parliament is. k who wrote Don Ouixote.
12 I've just seen a film about Marie Curie,	who invented television.
13 It's a microscope,	m which is the capital of Australia.
14 Next week is Mardi Gras,	n which is used to study very small objects.
Work in pairs. One person closes the book. The other his/her partner can compete it correctly. C Rewrite the following as single sentences usi	ng who, which, when or where:
1 My grandfather was born in 1914, when the Firs (The First World War started in 1914.)	st World War started.
He lived most of his life in Newcastle, (He was born in Newcastle.)	
3 When he was at University he met my grandmother, (She was studying mathematics.)	