

A

Clauses with whose

Reminder → J1–J5

We use a relative clause beginning with the relative pronoun **whose** + **noun**, particularly in written English, when we talk about something belonging to or associated with a person, animal or plant:

- Stevenson is an architect **whose designs** have won international praise.
- Suzy was taking care of a dog **whose ears** were badly damaged in a fight with a cat.

We can use **whose** in both *defining* and *non-defining relative clauses*.

We generally avoid using **whose** to talk about something belonging to or associated with a *thing*:

- I received a letter, and its poor spelling made me think it was written by a child. (*more natural than* I received a letter, **whose** poor spelling made me think ...)

However, we sometimes use **whose** when we talk about towns, countries, or organisations:

- The film was made in *Botswana*, **whose wildlife parks** are larger than those in Kenya.
- We need to learn from *companies* **whose trading** is healthier than our own.

In academic writing **whose** is used to talk about a wide variety of 'belonging to' relationships:

- Students have to solve *problems* **whose** solutions require a knowledge of calculus.

B

Clauses with when, whereby, where and why

We can begin relative and other clauses with **when** (referring to time), **whereby** (method or means; used mainly in formal contexts), and **where** (location). In formal English in particular, a phrase with **preposition + which** can often be used instead of these:

- The camera records the time **when** the photo is taken. (*or ... the time at which ...*)
- Do you know the date **when** we have to hand in the essay? (*or ... the date on / by which ...*)
- We need to develop a system **whereby** workers and management can communicate more effectively. (*or ... the system in / by which workers ...*)
- This was the place **where** we first met. (*or ... the place at / in which we ...*)

In academic English, we can also use **where** to refer to features other than location, particularly after words such as **case**, **condition**, **example**, **situation**, **system**:

- Later in this chapter we will introduce *cases* **where** consumer complaints have resulted in changes in the law. (*or more formally ... cases in which ...*)

We can also use **a / the reason why** or **a / the reason that** or just **a / the reason**:

- I didn't get a pay rise, but this wasn't **the reason why** I left. (*or ... the reason (that) I left.*)

C

Clauses with who and what; whatever, whoever and whichever

Some clauses beginning with a **wh-word** are used like a noun phrase in a sentence. These are sometimes called *nominal relative clauses*:

- Can you give me a list of **who's** been invited? (= the people who have been invited)
- I didn't know **what** I should do next. (= the thing that I should do next)

Note that we can't use **what** in this way after a noun:

- I managed to get all the *books* **that** you asked for. (*not ... all the books what you asked for.*)

We use clauses beginning with **whatever** (= anything *or* it doesn't matter what), **whoever** (= the person / group who *or* any person / group who), or **whichever** (= one thing or person from a limited number), to talk about things or people that are indefinite or unknown:

- I'm sure I'll enjoy eating **whatever** you cook.
- Whoever** wins will go on to play Barcelona in the final.
- Whichever** one of you broke the window will have to pay for it.

Exercises

54.1 Combine a sentence from (i) with a sentence from (ii) to make new sentences with **whose**. **A**

(i)

- 1 Dr Rowan has had to do all her own typing.
- 2 The newspaper is owned by the Mears group.
- 3 Parents are being asked to take part in the survey.
- 4 Children do better in examinations.
- 5 My aunt is now CEO of a department store.
- 6 I enjoy growing plants.

(ii)

- a Its chairperson is Miss Jiu Kim.
- b Their diets contain high levels of protein.
- c Their flowers are attractive to bees.
- d ~~Her secretary resigned two weeks ago.~~
- e Her first job was filling shelves in a supermarket.
- f Their children are between four and six.

1 + d Dr Rowan, whose secretary resigned two weeks ago, has had to do all her own typing.

54.2 Define the words using **whose** (1–3) and **in which** (4–6). You may need to use a dictionary. **A & B**

- 1 A lexicographer is a person whose job is to write dictionaries.
- 2 A widow is a woman
- 3 An actuary is a person
- 4 A furnace is a container
- 5 A gazebo is a small garden building
- 6 Polo is



54.3 Complete these sentences using phrases from the box and **when, whereby, where** or **why**. **B**

the area an agreement a condition a method the moment the reason

- 1 Sunset is defined in astronomy as the whole of the sun's disc disappears below the horizon.
- 2 In 1951, China and the Soviet Union signed China provided uranium ore in exchange for technical assistance.
- 3 The coastline is the land meets the sea or ocean.
- 4 The river is prone to sudden flooding which is there are no major towns along its banks.
- 5 Freeze-drying is water is rapidly evaporated from frozen food in order to preserve it.
- 6 Hypoglycaemia is the level of sugar in the blood drops suddenly.

54.4 If the italicised word is correct, write ✓. If not, suggest another word. **C**

- 1 I think *whatever* was responsible for damaging the trees should be fined or sent to prison.
- 2 Do they really understand *that* they are doing?
- 3 I don't envy *whoever* buys that house. It's in a terrible condition.
- 4 Now that I no longer have to wear a school uniform, I'll be able to wear *which* I want.
- 5 I think the government should improve the health service, *whichever* the cost.
- 6 It's a question *that* I've been asking for many years.
- 7 The clock makes a noise *what* keeps me awake at night.
- 8 I'm sure that Rashid will do well at university, *which* one he goes to.