

Relative Clauses (4) – “Extra Information” Clauses (1)

A

There are two types of *relative clauses*. In these examples, the relative clauses are underlined:

Type 1

- The woman who lives next door is a doctor.
- Barbara works for a company that makes washing machines.
- We stayed at the hotel (that) Ann recommended to us.

In these examples, the relative clause tells you which person or thing (or what kind of person or thing) the speaker means:

“The woman who lives next door” tells us *which* woman.

“A company that makes washing machines” tells us *what kind of* company.

“The hotel (that) Ann recommended” tells us *which* hotel.

We do not use commas (,) with these clauses:

- People who come from Texas love football.

Type 2

- My brother Jim, who lives in Houston, is a doctor.
- Brad told me about his new job, which he’s enjoying very much.
- We stayed at the Grand Hotel, which Ann recommended to us.

In these examples, the relative clauses do not tell you which person or thing the speaker means. We already know which thing or person is meant: “My brother Jim,” “Brad’s new job,” and “the Grand Hotel.”

The relative clauses in these sentences give us *extra information* about the person or thing.

We use commas (,) with these clauses:

- My English teacher, who comes from Texas, loves computers.

B

In both types of relative clauses, we use *who* for people and *which* for things. But:

Type 1

You can use *that*:

- Do you know anyone who/that speaks French and Italian?
- Barbara works for a company that/which makes washing machines.

You can leave out *that/who/which* when it is the object (see Unit 90):

- We stayed at the hotel (that/which) Ann recommended.
- This morning I met somebody (who/that) I hadn’t seen for ages.

Whom is unusual in this type of clause.

Type 2

You cannot use *that*:

- John, who (not that) speaks French and Italian, works as a tourist guide.
- Brad told me about his new job, which (not that) he’s enjoying very much.

You cannot leave out *who* or *which*:

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

You can use *whom* (when it is the object):

- This morning I met Diane, whom (or who) I hadn’t seen for ages.

In both types of relative clause you can use *whose* and *where*:

- We met some people whose car had broken down.
- What’s the name of the place where you spent your vacation?
- Amy, whose car had broken down, was in a very bad mood.
- Mrs. Bond is going to spend a few weeks in Sweden, where her daughter lives.

Exercises

92.1 Make one sentence from two. Use the sentence in parentheses to make a relative clause (Type 2). You will need to use *who(m)/whose/which/where*.

1. Ann is very friendly. (She lives next door.)
Ann, who lives next door, is very friendly.
2. We stayed at the Grand Hotel. (Ann recommended it to us.)
We stayed at the Grand Hotel, which Ann recommended to us.
3. We went to Sandra's party. (We enjoyed it very much.)
We went to Sandra's party, _____.
4. I went to see the doctor. (He told me to rest for a few days.)
_____.
5. John is one of my closest friends. (I have known him for a very long time.)
John, _____.
6. Sheila is away from home a lot. (Her job involves a lot of traveling.)
_____.
7. The new stadium will be opened next month. (It can hold 90,000 people.)
The _____.
8. Alaska is the largest state in the United States. (My brother lives there.)
_____.

92.2 Read the information and complete the sentences. Use a relative clause of Type 1 or Type 2. Use commas (,) where necessary.

1. There's a woman living next door. She's a doctor.
The woman *who lives next door is a doctor*.
2. I have a brother named Jim. He lives in Houston. He's a doctor.
My brother Jim, *who lives in Houston, is a doctor*.
3. There was a strike at the car factory. It lasted ten days. It is now over.
The strike at the car factory _____.
4. I was looking for a book this morning. I've found it now.
I've found _____.
5. London was once the largest city in the world, but the population is now decreasing.
The population of London _____.
6. A job was advertised. A lot of people applied for it. Few of them had the necessary qualifications. Few of _____.
7. Amanda has a son. She showed me a picture of him. He's a police officer.
Amanda showed me _____.

92.3 In some of these sentences you can use *that* or *which*; in others, only *which* is possible. Cross out *that* if only *which* is possible. Also, put commas (,) where necessary.

1. Jane works for a company that / which makes shoes. (both possible, no commas)
2. Brad told me about his new job that / which he's enjoying very much. (only *which* is possible; comma necessary)
3. My office that / which is on the second floor of the building is very small.
4. The office that / which I'm using at the moment is very small.
5. She told me her address that / which I wrote down on a piece of paper.
6. There are some words that / which are very difficult to translate.
7. The sun that / which is one of millions of stars in the universe provides us with heat and light.