

RELATIVE CLAUSES

1st BATX

RELATIVE CLAUSES

Definition:

Relative clauses have a main goal: the economy of language! That means that they are a strategy to avoid the repetition of some same component in two clauses.



RELATIVE PRONOUNS

Task 1: THE PRONOUNS!

1 WHEN

___ objects

2 WHO

___ places

3 THAT

___ possession

4 WHICH

___ time

5 WHOSE

___ people and objects

6 WHERE

___ people

RELATIVE PRONOUNS

- WHEN > time
- WHO > people
- THAT > people and objects
- WHICH > objects
- WHOSE > possession
- WHERE > places



EXAMPLES

Task 2: THE ANTECEDENT!

An *antecedent* is the noun or noun phrase that a pronoun refers to. Also known as a *referent*.

More broadly, an antecedent may be any word in a sentence (or in a sequence of sentences) that another word or phrase refers to.

Given some examples, you have to identify the antecedent.

EXAMPLES



EXAMPLES: *WHO*

Biden is the person **who** is the president of the USA.



EXAMPLES: *WHERE*

Nepal is the country **where** Mount Everest is located.



EXAMPLES: *WHEN*

Christmas is the time of the year **when** you eat chocolate.



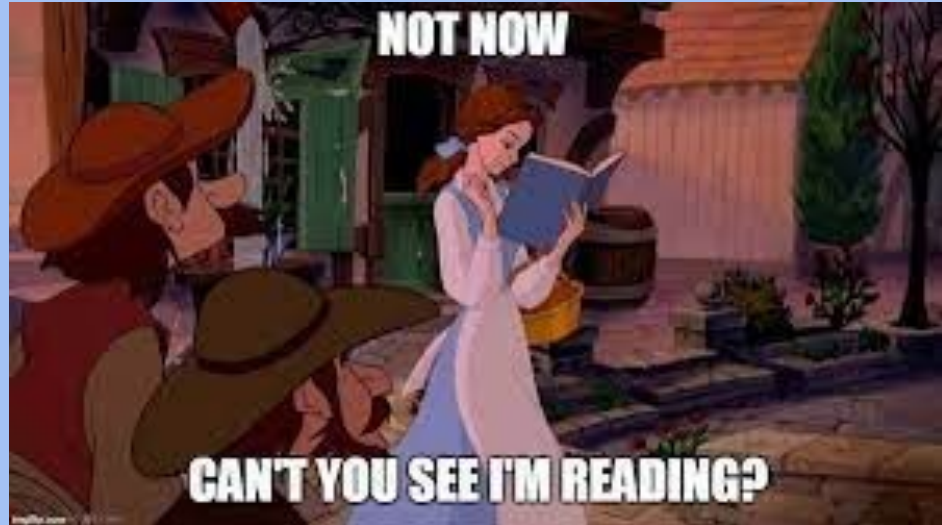
EXAMPLES: *WHICH*

A spoon is the object **which** is used to eat soup.



EXAMPLES: *THAT*

- This is the book **that** my sister reads.
- The boy standing at the corner is the one **that** we were talking about.



EXAMPLES: *WHOSE*

Shakira is the person **whose** nationality is Colombia.



DEFINING AND NON-DEFINING RELATIVE CLAUSES

Task 3: THE DIFFERENCE

Think of at least 1 difference between defining and non-defining relative clauses



DEFINING RELATIVE CLAUSE

1. It is essential to the meaning of the sentences.

WHY? Because these clauses contain SPECIFIC information and so they “define” the subj/obj from the main clause

*The woman **who lives next door** works in a bank.*



DEFINING RELATIVE CLAUSE

2. They are NOT preceded by commas.

*Summer is the season **when** I'm happiest.*

DEFINING RELATIVE CLAUSE

3. We can use *THAT* instead of *WHICH/WHO/WHEN* in DEFINING relative clauses.

| | |
|--------------|---|
| WHICH / THAT | <i>The laptop that I bought last week is blue.</i> |
| WHO / THAT | <i>He's the man that I met at the conference.</i> |
| WHEN / THAT | <i>It was the year that we got married.</i> |
| WHERE |  |
| WHOSE |  |

DEFINING RELATIVE CLAUSE

4. We can omit the relative pronoun if it ISN'T the subject of the relative clause.

He's the man \emptyset I met at the conference.

NON-DEFINING RELATIVE CLAUSE

1. It adds non essential information about the noun it describes.

*Lord Thompson, **who is 76**, has just retired.*

NON-DEFINING RELATIVE CLAUSE

2. They ARE preceded by commas.

*We had fish and chips, **which I always enjoy.***

NON-DEFINING RELATIVE CLAUSE

3. *THAT* is not possible in these type of clauses.



My mum, ~~that~~ has been baking for years, made us cupcakes

My mum, who has been baking for years, made us cupcakes

NON-DEFINING RELATIVE CLAUSE



4. We CANNOT omit the pronoun.

| | |
|-------|--|
| WHICH | <i>The house, <u>which</u> was built in 1883, has just been opened to the public.</i> |
| WHO | <i>My grandfather, <u>who</u> is 87, goes swimming every day.</i> |
| WHEN | <i>Last year, <u>when</u> I first met you, was amazing.</i> |
| WHERE | <i>City Park, <u>where</u> we used to go, has been closed down.</i> |
| WHOSE | <i>My next-door neighbour, <u>whose</u> children go to school with ours, has just bought a new car.</i> |

DEFINING OR NON DEFINING?

1. I have three brothers.

“My brother who lives in Sidney came to see me last month.”

“My brother, who lives in Sidney, came to see me last month.”

DEFINING OR NON DEFINING?

2. I have one sister.

“My sister who is 25 years old spent her holiday in France.”

“My sister, who is 25 years old, spent her holiday in France.”

DEFINING OR NON DEFINING?

3. Bob's mum has lost her keys.

“Bob's mum who is a musician has lost her car keys.”

“Bob's mum, who is a musician, has lost her car keys.”

DEFINING OR NON DEFINING?

4. My friend Jane moved to Canada.

“My friend Jane whose husband is Canadian moved to Canada last week.”

“My friend Jane, whose husband is Canadian, moved to Canada last week.”

DEFINING OR NON DEFINING?

5. I am a shoe fanatic.

“The shoes which I bought yesterday are very comfortable.”

“The shoes, which I bought yesterday, are very comfortable.”

STEP BY STEP

1. Imagine you have 2 sentences with some repeated element, let's call them PARTICIPANTS:

a. I have a sister. She works in a restaurant.

2. Now, cross the second element and replace it with a relative pronoun.

a. I have a sister who works in a restaurant. (defining, no commas)

3. Then, let's change the first participant by a name.

a. Yesterday I met Susan. She works in a restaurant.

STEP BY STEP

4. Replace again the second element but add commas, since the name means that you know something from the 1st participant.

a. *Yesterday I met Susan, who works in a restaurant.* (non-defining)

5. Finally, remember that the first participant must be followed by the relative pronoun and if this is not possible, you might make some changes.

a. *Last year I visited Las Vegas. I was born there.*

b. *Last year I visited Las Vegas, where I was born.*