

Adjective clause

A relative pronoun is used to connect a clause or phrase to a noun or pronoun. You see them used everyday with the most common relative pronouns being: *who, whom, which, whoever, whomever, whichever, and that.*

I. Defining Relative Pronouns

A relative pronoun is usually seen in a sentence at the beginning of an adjective clause. An adjective clause functions as an adjective, modifying nouns and pronouns.

An adjective clause starts with either a relative adverb:

- where, when, and why

or a relative pronoun such as:

- that, who, whom, whose, or which

Example (with relative pronoun underlined and adjective clause in italics): The driver who *ran the stop sign* was careless.

Here is a full list of relative pronouns:

that, when, which, whichever, whichever, who, whoever, whosoever, whom, whomever, whomsomever, whose, whossoever, whatever, whatsoever

Following are examples of sentences that have adjective clauses starting with relative pronouns (relative pronouns are underlined).

- Spaghetti, which many of us enjoy, can be messy.
- This is the book that everyone is talking about.
- She wrote to the person whom she had met last month.
- We didn't bring the receipt, which was a big mistake.
- I have a friend whose cat is annoying.
- People who are clever can always find a way.
- Grandma remembers a time when radio shows were popular.
- Never go to a doctor whose office plants have died. - Erma Bombeck