

## GRAMMAR - RELATIVE CLAUSES

There are two types of relative clauses:

1. Use defining relative clauses to give essential information about which person, thing, place or time is being talked about. Do not use a comma before the relative pronoun.

This is the building in which I used to live.

2. Use non-defining clauses to give additional and non-essential information. Use commas to separate this clause from the rest of the sentence.

The tallest building of the city, which was built in 1985, is in my neighbourhood.

### RELATIVE PRONOUNS:

- Who (people) - this is the man who sold me the car.
- Whom (people) – this is the girl about whom I was talking to you yesterday
- Which (things) - the film which I watched yesterday was really dull.
- When (times) - this was the time when I met your parents.
- Whose (possessions) - the car whose owner is my father is the red one.
- Where / in which (places) - this is the town where I was born and raised.
- The reason why (give reason) - the reason why I gave up smoking was...

In very formal English, use prepositions at the beginning of the relative clause. In this case always use whom, not who.

- She was someone to whom he regularly wrote love letters and sent flowers.
- The girl for whom I bought the ticket is my sister.

We can use "that" instead of "who, whom, when or which".

- This is the girl (who/that) is my classmate.
- I've just run into a woman (who/that) I went to the university with.

In defining clauses we can omit the pronouns "who, whom, which, that or when" if they're the object of the relative clause.

- My groom gave me a ring which belonged to his grandmother. (the subject of the relative clause is which, so we can't omit it)
- This is Gwen the girl (~~who~~) I'm going to marry. (The subject of the relative clause is I. Who is the object, so we can omit who)

In non-defining clause we cannot omit the relative pronoun and cannot use "that" instead of "who or which".

- Emily, who I rented her flat, is going to stay here for two weeks.

We can use which to refer to the whole of a previous clause or sentence.

- The plane was delayed by bad weather, which meant we had a four-hour wait.