

# Relative clauses 3

defining and non-defining relative clauses



- A** Read the sentences and decide which statement, *a* or *b*, describes the defining relative clause and which describes the non-defining relative clause. Note that where there is a comma (,) in writing there is a pause in speech.

## Defining relative clauses

## Non-defining relative clauses

### Example:

Lambs *that are born early* are given special care. a

Lambs, *which are young sheep*, are usually born in spring. b

The relative clause tells you:	a) which particular group of lambs she is talking about. b) more about lambs in general, ie what lambs are.
1 Now I'm going to swallow the sword <i>that my assistant, Julia, is holding</i> . _____	2 Now I'm going to swallow the sword, <i>which my assistant, Julia, is holding</i> . _____
The relative clause tells you:	a) more about the situation, ie where the sword is. b) which sword he is talking about.
3 Miners <i>who work underground all their lives</i> usually have health problems. _____	4 Miners, <i>who work underground</i> , usually have health problems. _____
The relative clause tells you:	a) which group of miners have health problems. b) more about miners in general; ie why they have health problems.
5 The London <i>I knew 20 years ago</i> has gone forever. _____	6 London, <i>which I knew 20 years ago</i> , has changed forever. _____
The relative clause tells you:	a) more about the situation, ie she used to know London. b) which particular London she means, ie the one she knew 20 years ago.

## **B** Complete these sentences by writing *defining* or *non-defining* in each space.

- You use a \_\_\_\_\_ relative clause to tell your listener which one, or which particular group, you are talking about.
- You use a \_\_\_\_\_ relative clause to add extra information to your sentence; it does not usually help to identify which one/group you are talking about.
- You do not use a comma in writing, or pause in speech, before a \_\_\_\_\_ relative clause.
- You do use a comma, or pause in speech, before a \_\_\_\_\_ relative clause.
- You can use *that* in a \_\_\_\_\_ relative clause.
- You cannot use *that* in a \_\_\_\_\_ relative clause.
- You can omit *who*, *which* and *that* if it is the object of a \_\_\_\_\_ relative clause.
- You cannot omit *who*, *which* or *that* in a \_\_\_\_\_ relative clause.