

Relative clauses

- A murderer is a person.
- A person committed a murder.

A murderer is a person who committed a murder.

- The defending lawyer made a good impression.
- He spoke with great conviction.

The defending lawyer, who spoke with great conviction, made a good impression.

Relative clauses

- give more information about someone or something referred to in a main clause.
 - additional, extra information → NON-DEFINING
- are used to specify WHICH person or thing we mean, or WHICH type of person or thing we mean
 - essential information → DEFINING

Relative clauses

- a My sister, *who lives in France*, is coming to stay with me next week.
- b My sister *who lives in France* is coming to stay with me next week.

? What kind of information : **who lives in France**

- **Additional ?** **OR** **Essential?**
- **One sister?** **OR** **ONE of my sisters?**

Relative clauses

- Additional information: non-defining relative clauses (commas!!)

The President of the US, **who is visiting Moscow,** claimed that relations between the two countries are at their best.

- Essential information: defining relative clauses (no commas!!)

A liar is a person **who always tells lies.**

Relative clauses

Defining relative clauses – restrictive clauses

For **people**

The man that stole my car was fined. (AE, BE)

The man who stole my car was fined. (BE)

For **things**

The company which/that made it has gone bankrupt.

Relative clauses

Non-defining relative clauses-non-restrictive

For **people**:

The couple, who live next to us, have divorced.

Neil Adams, whose parents are both teachers, is a lawyer.

For **things**

These drugs, which are used to treat ulcer, have been withdrawn from sale.

“**That**” cannot be used in a non-defining relative clause.

Relative clauses

- Introduced by RELATIVE PRONOUNS (who, that, which, whom, whose) and RELATIVE ADVERBS (when, that, where, why...)
- Possession: WHOSE

Examples:

- 1 He is the man. I am working for the man.
- 2 That is the girl. Bill got engaged to the girl.
- 3 The man owns that shop. The man is my cousin.
- 4 That is the man. The man's daughter got married to my neighbour.
- 5 The man bought our car. The man lives next door.
- 6 The man was impatient. The man left before the police came.

Relative clauses

- **Omitting the Relative Pronoun**
- Relative pronoun : the SUBJECT of the clause:
 - Rockall is an uninhabited *island* **which/that** *lies* north of Scotland.
 - We have *a friend* **who/that** plays the piano.
- or the OBJECT of the clause:
 - He showed me *the rocks* (**which/that**) **he had brought back** from Australia.
 - That is *the man* (**who/that**) **I met** at the meeting.

Defining relative clauses

Adding **essential** information about **things**

| Relative pronoun | WHICH | THAT | ZERO |
|------------------|-------|------|------|
| Subject | + | + | - |
| Object | + | + | + |

Defining relative clauses

Adding **essential** information about **people**

| Relative pronoun | WHO | THAT | ZERO |
|------------------|--------|------|------|
| Subject | + | + | - |
| Object | + whom | + | + |

Non-defining relative clauses

Adding information about **people**

| Relative pronoun | WHO | WHOM | ZERO |
|------------------|--------|------|------|
| Subject | + | - | - |
| Object | +/whom | + | - |

Non-defining relative clauses

Adding information about **things**

| Relative pronoun | WHICH | ZERO |
|------------------|-------|------|
| Subject | + | - |
| Object | + | - |