

Relative clauses (1) – clauses with **who/that/which**

A Look at this example sentence:

The woman who lives next door is a doctor.
└── relative clause ─┘

A *clause* is a part of a sentence. A *relative clause* tells us which person or thing (or what kind of person or thing) the speaker means:

- The woman **who lives next door**... ('who lives next door' tells us which woman)
- People **who live in London**... ('who live in London' tells us what kind of people)

We use **who** in a relative clause when we are talking about *people* (not things). We use **who** instead of **he/she/they**:

the woman – she lives next door – is a doctor
 → The woman **who** lives next door is a doctor.

we know a lot of people – they live in London
 → We know a lot of people **who** live in London.

- An architect is someone **who designs buildings**.
- What was the name of the man **who lent you the money**?
- Anyone **who wants to do the exam** must enter before next Friday.

You can also use **that** (instead of **who**):

- The man **that lives next door** is very friendly.

But sometimes you must use **who** (not 'that') for people – see Unit 94.

B When we are talking about *things*, we use **that** or **which** (not 'who') in a relative clause:

where is the cheese? – it was in the fridge
 ↓
 → Where is the cheese { **that** / **which** } was in the fridge?

- I don't like stories **that have unhappy endings**. (or ...stories **which** have...)
- Barbara works for a company **that makes washing machines**. (or ...a company **which** makes...)
- The machine **that broke down** has now been repaired. (or The machine **which** broke down...)

That is more usual than **which**. But sometimes you must use **which** (not 'that') – see Unit 94.

C You cannot use **what** in sentences like these:

- Everything **that happened** was my fault. (not 'Everything **what** happened...')

What = 'the thing(s) that':

- **What** happened was my fault. (= the thing that happened)

D Remember that in relative clauses we use **who/that/which** *instead of* **he/she/they/it**. So we say:

- Do you know the woman **who** lives next door? (not '...the woman *she* lives next door')

EXERCISES

91.1 In this exercise you have to explain what some words mean. Choose the right meaning from the box and then write a sentence with **who**. Use a dictionary if necessary.

he/she	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> steals from a shop designs buildings doesn't believe in God is not brave 	he/she	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> buys something from a shop pays rent to live in a house or flat breaks into a house to steal things no longer works and gets money from the state
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- 1 (an architect) An architect is someone who designs buildings.
- 2 (a burglar) A burglar is someone
- 3 (a customer)
- 4 (a shoplifter)
- 5 (a coward)
- 6 (an atheist)
- 7 (a pensioner)
- 8 (a tenant)

91.2 Make one sentence from two. Use **who/that/which**.

- 1 A girl was injured in the accident. She is now in hospital.
 The girl who was injured in the accident is now in hospital.
- 2 A man answered the phone. He told me you were away.
 The man
- 3 A waitress served us. She was very impolite and impatient.
 The
- 4 A building was destroyed in the fire. It has now been rebuilt.

- 5 Some people were arrested. They have now been released.
 The
- 6 A bus goes to the airport. It runs every half hour.

91.3 Complete the sentences. Choose the most suitable ending from the box and make it into a relative clause.

he invented the telephone	it makes washing machines
she runs away from home	it gives you the meaning of words
they are never on time	it won the race
they stole my car	it can support life
they were on the wall	it cannot be explained

- 1 Barbara works for a company that makes washing machines.
- 2 The book is about a girl
- 3 What was the name of the horse
- 4 The police have caught the men
- 5 Alexander Bell was the man
- 6 What's happened to the pictures
- 7 A mystery is something
- 8 A dictionary is a book
- 9 I don't like people
- 10 It seems that Earth is the only planet

EXERCISES

92.1 In some of these sentences you don't need **who** or **that**. If you don't need these words, put them in brackets like this: (who) (that).

- The woman **who** lives next door is a doctor. ('who' is necessary in this sentence)
- Have you found the keys **(that)** you lost. (in this sentence you don't need 'that')
- The people **who** we met at the party were very friendly.
- The people **who** work in the office are very friendly.
- The people **who** I talked to were very friendly.
- What have you done with the money **that** I gave you?
- What happened to the money **that** was on the table? Did you take it?
- It was an awful film. It was the worst film **that** I've ever seen.
- It was an awful experience. It was the worst thing **that** has ever happened to me.

92.2 Complete these sentences with a relative clause. Use the sentences in the box to make your relative clauses.

we hired a car	you're going to see a film	I invited some people to the party
Ann is wearing a dress	you had to do some work	Tom recommended a hotel to us
you lost some keys	we wanted to visit a museum	

- Have you found the keys ...~~you lost?~~...
- I like the dress
- The museum was shut when we got there.
- What's the name of the film?
- Some of the people couldn't come.
- Have you finished the work?
- The car broke down after a few miles.
- We stayed at a hotel

92.3 Complete these sentences using a relative clause with a preposition.

we went to a party last night	you can rely on George	we were invited to a wedding
I work with a number of people	I applied for a job	you told me about a hotel
you were looking for some keys	I saw you with a man	

- Are these the keys ...~~you were looking for?~~...
- Unfortunately we couldn't go to the wedding
- I enjoy my job. I like the people
- What's the name of that hotel?
- The party wasn't very enjoyable.
- I didn't get the job
- George is a good person to know. He's somebody
- Who was that man in the restaurant?

92.4 Put in **that** or **what**. If the sentence is complete with or without **that**, write (that) - in brackets.

- I gave her all the money ...**(that)**... I had.
- They give their children everything they want.
- Tell me you want and I'll try to get it for you.
- Why do you blame me for everything goes wrong?
- I won't be able to do much but I'll do the best I can.
- I can only lend you ten pounds. It's all I've got.
- I don't agree with you've just said.
- I don't trust him. I don't believe anything he says.

Relative clauses (3) – whose/whom/where

Whose

We use **whose** in relative clauses instead of **his/her/their**:

we saw some people – **their** car had broken down
 → We saw some people **whose** car had broken down.

We use **whose** mostly for people:

- A widow is a woman **whose husband is dead**. (her husband is dead)
- What's the name of the man **whose car you borrowed?** (you borrowed **his** car)
- A few days ago I met someone **whose brother I went to school with**. (I went to school with **his/her** brother)

Compare **who** and **whose**:

- I met a man **who** knows you. (*he* knows you)
- I met a man **whose sister** knows you. (*his sister* knows you)

Whom

Whom is possible instead of **who** when it is the *object* of the verb in the relative clause (like the sentences in Unit 92B):

- The woman **whom I wanted to see** was away on holiday. (I wanted to see **her**)

You can also use **whom** with a preposition (**to whom / from whom / with whom** etc.):

- The woman **with whom he fell in love** left him after a few weeks. (he fell in love **with her**)

But we do not often use **whom**. In spoken English we usually prefer **who** or **that**, or nothing (see Unit 92). So we usually say:

- The man **I saw...** or The man **who/that** I saw...
- The woman **he fell in love with...** or The woman **who/that** he fell in love with...

For **whom** see also Units 94–95.

Where

You can use **where** in a relative clause to talk about a place:

the hotel – we stayed **there** – wasn't very clean
 → The hotel **where** we stayed wasn't very clean.

- I recently went back to **the town where I was born**. (or ...the town **I was born in**. or ...the town **that** I was born in.)
- I would like to live in a **country where there is plenty of sunshine**.

We say: **the day / the year / the time** (etc.) { something happens or that something happens







- Do you still remember **the day (that) we first met?**
- **The last time (that) I saw her**, she looked very well.
- I haven't seen them since **the year (that) they got married**.

We say: **the reason** { something happens or that/why something happens

- **The reason I'm phoning you** is to invite you to a party. (or The reason **that** I'm phoning... / The reason **why** I'm phoning...)

EXERCISES

93.1 You met these people at a party:

1  My mother writes detective stories.	2  My wife is an English teacher.	3  I own a restaurant.
4  My ambition is to climb Everest.	5  We've just got married.	6  My parents used to work in a circus.

Later you tell a friend about the people you met. Complete the sentences using **who...** or **whose...**

- I met somebody ... whose mother writes detective stories.
- I met a man
- I met a woman
- I met somebody
- I met a couple
- I met somebody

93.2 Complete the sentences. Use the sentences in the box to make relative clauses with **where**.

I can buy some postcards there	I was born there
Ann bought a dress there	we can have a really good meal there
John is staying there	we had the car repaired there

- I recently went back to the town ... where I was born.
- Do you know a restaurant
- Is there a shop near here
- I can't remember the name of the garage
- Do you know the name of the hotel
- Ann bought a dress which didn't fit her, so she took it back to the shop

93.3 Complete each sentence using **who/whom/whose/where**.

- What's the name of the man ... whose ... car you borrowed?
- A cemetery is a place people are buried.
- A pacifist is a person believes that all wars are wrong.
- An orphan is a child parents are dead.
- The place we spent our holidays was really beautiful.
- This school is only for children first language is not English.
- I don't know the name of the woman to I spoke on the phone.

93.4 Use your own ideas to complete these sentences. They are like the ones in Sections D and E.

- I'll always remember the day ... I first met you.
- I'll never forget the time
- The reason was that I didn't know your address.
- Unfortunately I wasn't at home the evening
- The reason is that they don't need one.
- 1989 was the year

Relative clauses (4) – ‘extra information’ clauses (1)

A

There are two types of relative clause. In these examples, the relative clauses are underlined. Compare:

<p><i>Type 1</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The woman <u>who lives next door</u> is a doctor. • Barbara works for a company <u>that makes washing machines</u>. • We stayed at the hotel <u>(that) Ann recommended to us</u>. <p>In these examples, the relative clause tells you <i>which</i> person or thing (or <i>what kind</i> of person or thing) the speaker means: ‘The woman <i>who lives next door</i>’ tells us <i>which</i> woman. ‘A company <i>that makes washing machines</i>’ tells us <i>what kind</i> of company. ‘The hotel <i>(that) Ann recommended</i> tells us <i>which</i> hotel.</p> <p>We do not use commas (,) with these clauses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We know a lot of people <u>who live in London</u>. (<i>what kind</i> of people) 	<p><i>Type 2</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • My brother Jim, <u>who lives in London</u>, is a doctor. • Colin told me about his new job, <u>which he’s enjoying very much</u>. • We stayed at the Grand Hotel, <u>which Ann recommended to us</u>. <p>In these examples, the relative clauses do <i>not</i> tell you which person or thing the speaker means. <i>We already know</i> which thing or person is meant: ‘My brother Jim’, ‘Colin’s new job’ and ‘the Grand Hotel’.</p> <p>The relative clauses in these sentences give us <i>extra information</i> about the person or thing.</p> <p>We use commas (,) in these clauses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • My brother Jim, <u>who lives in London</u>, is a doctor. (<i>extra information</i> about Jim)
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B

In both types of relative clause we use **who** for people and **which** for things. But:

<p><i>Type 1</i></p> <p>You can use that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do you know anyone who/that speaks French and Italian? • Barbara works for a company which/that makes washing machines. <p>You can leave out that/who/which when it is the object (see Unit 92):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We stayed at the hotel (that/which) Ann recommended. • This morning I met somebody (that/who) I hadn’t seen for ages. <p>We do not often use whom in this type of clause (see Unit 93B).</p> <p>In both types of relative clause you can use whose and where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We met some people whose car had broken down. • What’s the name of the place where you spent your holiday? 	<p><i>Type 2</i></p> <p>You cannot use that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John, who (<i>not</i> ‘that’) speaks French and Italian, works as a tourist guide. • Colin told me about his new job, which (<i>not</i> ‘that’) he’s enjoying very much. <p>You cannot leave out who or which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We stayed at the Grand Hotel, which Ann recommended to us. <p>You can use whom (when it is the object):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This morning I met Diane, whom (or who) I hadn’t seen for ages. <p>Whose and where are also used in Type 2 clauses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amy, whose car had broken down, was in a very bad mood. • Mrs Bond is going to spend a few weeks in Sweden, where her daughter lives.
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EXERCISES

94.1 Make one sentence from two. Use the sentence in brackets to make a relative clause (Type 2). Sometimes the clause goes in the middle of the sentence, sometimes at the end. You will need to use **who(m)/whose/which/where**.

- 1 Ann is very friendly. (She lives next door.) ... Ann, who lives next door, is very friendly.
- 2 We stayed at the Grand Hotel. (Ann recommended it to us.)
... We stayed at the Grand Hotel, which Ann recommended to us.
- 3 We went to Sandra's party. (We enjoyed it very much.)
We went to Sandra's party,
- 4 I went to see the doctor. (He told me to rest for a few days.)
.....
- 5 John is one of my closest friends. (I have known him for a very long time.)
John
- 6 Sheila is away from home a lot. (Her job involves a lot of travelling.)
.....
- 7 The new stadium will be opened next month. (It can hold 90,000 people.)
The
- 8 We often go to visit our friends in Bristol. (It is only 30 miles away.)
.....
- 9 Glasgow is the largest city in Scotland. (My brother lives there.)
.....

94.2 Read the information and complete the sentences. Use a relative clause. Sometimes the clause tells us which thing or person (Type 1); sometimes it only gives us extra information (Type 2). Use commas where necessary.

- 1 There's a woman living next door. She's a doctor.
The woman ... who lives next door is a doctor.
- 2 I've got a brother called Jim. He lives in London. He's a doctor.
My brother Jim ... who lives in London, is a doctor.
- 3 There was a strike at the car factory. It lasted ten days. It is now over.
The strike at the car factory
- 4 I was looking for a book this morning. I've found it now.
I've found
- 5 London was once the largest city in the world, but the population is now falling.
The population of London
- 6 A job was advertised. A lot of people applied for it. Few of them had the necessary qualifications. Few of
- 7 Margaret has a son. She showed me a photograph of him. He's a policeman.
Margaret showed me

94.3 In some of these sentences you can use **which** or **that**; in others, only **which** is possible. Cross out **that** if only **which** is possible. Also, put commas (,) where necessary.

- 1 Jane works for a company which / that makes shoes. (both possible, no commas)
- 2 Colin told me about his new job , which / that he's enjoying very much. (only which is possible; comma necessary)
- 3 My office which / that is on the second floor of the building is very small.
- 4 The office which / that I'm using at the moment is very small.
- 5 She told me her address which / that I wrote down on a piece of paper.
- 6 There are some words which / that are very difficult to translate.
- 7 The sun which / that is one of millions of stars in the universe provides us with heat and light.

EXERCISES

95.1 Make two sentences from one using a relative clause. Use the sentence in brackets to make the relative clause.

- 1 Mr Carter is very interested in our plan. (I spoke to him on the phone last night.)
 ...Mr Carter, to whom I spoke on the phone last night, is very interested in our plan.
- 2 This is a photograph of our friends. (We went on holiday with these friends.)
 This is a photograph
- 3 The wedding took place last Friday. (Only members of the family were invited to it.)
 The wedding
- 4 Sheila finally arrived. (We had been waiting for her.)

- 5 We climbed to the top of the tower. (We had a beautiful view from there.)

95.2 Write sentences with all of / most of etc. + whom/which.

- 1 Mary has three brothers. (All of her brothers are married.)
 ...Mary has three brothers, all of whom are married.
- 2 We were given a lot of information. (Most of the information was useless.)
 We were given
- 3 There were a lot of people at the party. (I had met only a few of these people before.)

- 4 I have sent her two letters. (She has received neither of these letters.)

- 5 Ten people applied for the job. (None of these people were suitable.)

- 6 Kate has got two cars. (She hardly ever uses one of them.)

- 7 Norman won £50,000. (He gave half of this to his parents.)

- 8 Julia has two sisters. (Both of her sisters are teachers.)

95.3 Join a sentence from Box A with a sentence from Box B to make a new sentence. Use which.

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Sheila couldn't come to the party. A 2 Jill isn't on the phone. 3 Neil has passed his examinations. 4 Our flight was delayed. 5 Ann offered to let me stay in her house. 6 The street I live in is very noisy at night. 7 Our car has broken down. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> This was very nice of her. B This means we can't go away tomorrow. This makes it difficult to contact her. This makes it difficult to sleep. This was a pity. This is good news. This meant we had to wait four hours at the airport.
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- 1 Sheila couldn't come to the party, ...which was a pity...
- 2 Jill isn't
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7

UNIT 91

91.1

- 2 A burglar is someone who breaks into a house to steal things.
- 3 A customer is someone who buys something from a shop.
- 4 A shoplifter is someone who steals from a shop.
- 5 A coward is someone who is not brave.
- 6 An atheist is someone who doesn't believe in God.
- 7 A pensioner is someone who no longer works and gets money from the state.
- 8 A tenant is someone who pays rent to live in a house or flat.

91.2

- 2 The man who/that answered the phone told me you were away.
- 3 The waitress who/that served us was very impolite and impatient.
- 4 The building that/which was destroyed in the fire has now been rebuilt.
- 5 The people who/that were arrested have now been released.
- 6 The bus that/which goes to the airport runs every half hour.

91.3

- 2 who/that runs away from home
- 3 that/which won the race
- 4 who/that stole my car
- 5 who/that invented the telephone
- 6 that/which were on the wall
- 7 that/which cannot be explained
- 8 that/which gives you the meaning of words
- 9 who/that are never on time
- 10 that/which can support life

UNIT 92

92.1

- 3 (who) 7 that
 4 who 8 (that)
 5 (who) 9 that
 6 (that)

92.2

- 2 (that/which) Ann is wearing
 3 (that/which) we wanted to visit
 4 (that/which) you're going to see
 5 (who/that) I invited to the party
 6 (that/which) you had to do
 7 (that/which) we hired
 8 (that/which) Tom recommended to us

92.3

- 2 (that/which) we were invited to
 3 (who/that) I work with
 4 (that/which) you told me about
 5 (that/which) we went to last night
 6 (that/which) I applied for
 7 (who/that) you can rely on
 8 (who/that) I saw you with

92.4

- 2 (that) 6 (that)
 3 what 7 what
 4 that 8 (that)
 5 (that)

UNIT 93

93.1

- 2 whose wife is an English teacher.
 3 who owns a restaurant.
 4 whose ambition is to climb Everest.
 5 who have just got married.
 6 whose parents used to work in a circus.

93.2

- 2 where we can have a really good meal
 3 where I can buy some postcards
 4 where we had the car repaired
 5 where John is staying
 6 where she (had) bought it

93.3

- 2 where 5 where
 3 who 6 whose
 4 whose 7 whom

93.4

Example answers:

- 2 we got stuck in a lift
 3 I didn't write to you
 4 you phoned
 5 they haven't got a car
 6 Mary got married

UNIT 94

94.1

- 3 which we enjoyed very much.
 4 I went to see the doctor, who told me to rest for a few days.
 5 John, who/whom I have known for a very long time, is one of my closest friends.
 6 Sheila, whose job involves a lot of travelling, is away from home a lot.
 7 The new stadium, which can hold 90,000 people, will be opened next month.
 8 We often go to visit our friends in Bristol, which is only 30 miles away.
 9 Glasgow, where my brother lives, is the largest city in Scotland.

94.2

- 3 The strike at the car factory, which lasted ten days, is now over.
 4 I've found the book I was looking for. *or* ...the book that/which I was looking for.
 5 The population of London, which was once the largest city in the world, is now falling.
 6 Few of the people who/that applied for the job had the necessary qualifications.
 7 Margaret showed me a photograph of her son, who is a policeman.

94.3

- 3 My office, which ... the building, is... (*commas*)
 4 The office that/which... (*no commas*)
 5 She told me her address, which... (*comma*)
 6 There are some words that/which... (*no commas*)
 7 The sun, which ... in the universe, provides... (*commas*)

UNIT 95

95.1

- 2 This is a photograph of our friends, with whom we went on holiday. *or* ...who we went on holiday with.
 3 The wedding, to which only members of the family were invited, took place last Friday. *or* The wedding, which only members of the family were invited to, took place...
 4 Sheila, for whom we had been waiting, finally arrived. *or* Sheila, who we had been waiting for, finally arrived.

- 5 We climbed to the top of the tower, from which we had a beautiful view. *or* ...which we had a beautiful view from.

95.2

- 2 We were given a lot of information, most of which was useless.
 3 There were a lot of people at the party, only a few of whom I had met before.
 4 I have sent her two letters, neither of which she has received.
 5 Ten people applied for the job, none of whom were suitable.
 6 Kate has got two cars, one of which she hardly ever uses.
 7 Norman won £50,000, half of which he gave to his parents.
 8 Julia has two sisters, both of whom are teachers.

95.3

- 2 Jill isn't on the phone, which makes it difficult to contact her.
 3 Neil has passed his examinations, which is good news.
 4 Our flight was delayed, which meant we had to wait four hours at the airport.
 5 Ann offered to let me stay in her house, which was very nice of her.
 6 The street I live in is very noisy at night, which makes it difficult to sleep.
 7 Our car has broken down, which means we can't go away tomorrow.

UNIT 96

96.1

- 2 I didn't talk much to the man sitting next to me on the plane.
 3 The taxi taking us to the airport broke down.
 4 At the end of the street there is a path leading to the river.
 5 A new factory employing 500 people has just opened in the town.
 6 The company sent me a brochure containing all the information I needed.

96.2

- 2 The window broken in the storm last night has now been repaired.
 3 Most of the suggestions made at the meeting were not very practical.
 4 The paintings stolen from the museum haven't been found yet.
 5 What was the name of the man arrested by the police?