

Defining and non-defining relative clauses

Ограничительные и распространительные определительные предложения

Определительные придаточные предложения делятся на два типа: **ограничительные (defining)** и **распространительные (non-defining)**.

1) **Ограничительные (defining)** определительные предложения **содержат информацию, уточняющую значение слова, к которому они относятся**. Они выбирают из класса предметов, обозначаемых определяемым словом, только те, которые отвечают определенным характеристикам. Опущение ограничительного придаточного предложения часто ведет к неясности или неправильности главного предложения, к изменению его смысла. Ограничительные определительные придаточные предложения **не выделяются запятыми**.

He married a girl **who he met at the library** — Он женился на девушке, с которой познакомился в библиотеке (... девушке, (какой именно?) с которой ... При опущении придаточного главное предложение тоже изменяет смысл: He married a girl)

People **who don't smoke** live longer — Люди, которые не курят, живут дольше (Люди, (какие именно?) которые ... При опущении придаточного фраза главное предложение тоже изменяет смысл: People live longer)

A **defining** relative clause **identifies or classifies a noun**:

*Do you know the guy **who is talking to Will over there?***

*I wrote my essay on a photo **which was taken by Robert Capa**.*

If we omit this type of clause, the sentence does not make sense or has a different meaning:

Do you know the guy? (which guy?)

I wrote my essay on a photo. (what kind of photo?)

2) **Распространительные (non-defining)** определительные предложения **содержат информацию, дополнительно характеризующую слово, к которому они относятся** и которое достаточно определено само по себе, чтобы главное предложение не изменяло смысл при опущении придаточного определительного. Такие предложения встречаются реже ограничительных; употребляются преимущественно в письменной речи, в отличие от ограничительных, выделяются запятыми.

This is Mary, **who was my classmate** — Это Мэри, с которой я учился в одном классе (= с ней я ...) (... Мэри, (с какими еще свойствами?) с которой... При опущении придаточного предложения смысл главного сохраняется: This is Mary)

A **non-defining** relative clause **adds extra information** about a noun:

*The Mona Lisa was painted by Leonardo da Vinci, **who was also a prolific** (плодовитый, продуктивный) **engineer and inventor**.*

If we leave out this type of clause, the sentence still makes sense:

The Mona Lisa was painted by Leonardo da Vinci. (we know who Leonardo da Vinci was)

3) Между ограничительными и распространительными предложениями отсутствует четкое разграничение. Часто тип предложения определяется интонацией (распространительные предложения выделяются голосом), важностью информации в придаточном предложении (распространительные предложения содержат менее важную информацию) или тем, какая интерпретация более естественна.

Sometimes, the use of commas marks a difference in meaning:

*The athletes **who failed the drug test** were disqualified. (defining)*

*The athletes, **who failed the drug test**, were disqualified. (non-defining)*

The defining relative clause tells us that only those athletes who failed the drug test were disqualified. The sentence implies that there were other athletes who did not fail the drug test and that they were not disqualified. The non-defining relative clause tells us that all the athletes (mentioned earlier in the context) failed the drug test and that all of them were disqualified.

Местоимение **that** не употребляется в распространительных придаточных предложениях.

Для связи придаточных предложений подлежащих, сказуемых и дополнительных с главным употребляются относительные местоимения (relative pronouns) **who** кто (**whom** кого), **whose** чей, **what** что, **which** который, какой, кто, что. Они являются, таким образом, теми же вопросительными местоимениями, но употребленными не для вопроса, а для связи предложений).

Relative clauses

Introduction

It is important to distinguish between defining and non-defining relative clauses. Defining relative clauses are an essential part of the meaning of a sentence and therefore they cannot be left out. They define exactly who or what we are talking about.

There's the woman you were telling me about.

Non-defining relative clauses add extra information of secondary importance, and can be left out of a sentence.

Mrs Bottomley, who was an extremely mean person while she was alive, has left all her money to a cat's home.

Non-defining relative clauses are mainly found in written English, where sentences are carefully constructed. In spoken English, they sound rather formal, and can easily be expressed by simpler sentences. *Did you know Mrs Bottomley has left all her money to a cat's home? It's incredible, really. She was such a mean person.*

11.2 Defining relative clauses

These are the main forms used. The forms in brackets are possible, but not as common.

| | Person | Thing |
|---------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| Subject | who (that) — (that) | that (which) — (that) |
| Object | | |

Notice that English likes to drop the relative pronoun when it defines the object of the clause.

The doctor who helped me most was Dr Clark. (subject)

The doctor I found most helpful was Dr Clark. (object)

The treatment that helped me most was acupuncture. (subject)

The treatment I liked best was acupuncture. (object)

Notice that there are no commas before and after defining relative clauses when written, and no pauses when spoken.

that

That is usually used as subject after the following: superlatives, *all*, *every(thing)*, *some(thing)*, *any(thing)*, *no(thing)*, and *only*.

He wrote some of the best poetry that's ever been written.

All that's needed is a little more time.

Don't take anything that's valuable.

The only thing that matters is that you're safe.

We often omit *that* when it is the object.

She's one of the nicest people I know.

Is there anything I can do to help?

Prepositions

Prepositions can come either before relative pronouns or at the end of the relative clause. In spoken English, it is much more common to put the preposition at the end (and to drop the pronoun).

This is the book I was talking to you about.

The people I work with are very kind.

Second relative clause

A second relative, introduced by *and* or *but*, usually takes a *wh-* pronoun, not *that*.

Someone that I greatly admire, but who I've never met, is Professor Keats.

11.3 Non-defining relative clauses

These are the main forms used. The form in brackets is possible, but not as common.

| | Person | Thing |
|---------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Subject | ..., who ..., ... , whom ...) | ..., which ..., ... , which ... |
| Object | | |

Mr Jenkins, who has written several books, spoke at the meeting last night. (subject)

Peter Clark, who the Prime Minister sacked from the Cabinet, has become the chairman of Redland Bank. (object)

My favourite drink is whisky, which is one of Britain's most profitable exports. (subject)

I gave him a sandwich, which he ate greedily. (object)

Notice that there are commas around non-defining relative clauses when written, and pauses before and after them when spoken.

Prepositions

Prepositions can come at the end of non-defining relative clauses, but in a formal style they are usually put before the relative pronoun.

The lecturer spoke for two hours on the subject of Weingarten's Theory of Market Forces, which none of us had ever heard of.

The privatization of all industry, to which this government is deeply committed, is not universally popular.

which

Which can be used in non-defining clauses to refer to the whole of the preceding clause.

He passed the exam, which surprised everyone.

The lift isn't working, which means we'll have to use the stairs.

whose

Whose can be used in both defining and non-defining relative clauses to refer to possession.

There's the woman whose son was killed recently. (defining)

ABC Airways, whose fares across the Atlantic were lower than anybody else's, has just declared itself bankrupt. (non-defining)

what

What is used as a relative pronoun instead of the thing that in some sentences.

Has she told you what's worrying her?

I have to do what I believe is right.

when and where

When and where can be used to introduce both defining and non-defining relative clauses. In defining relative clauses, when can be left out.

Can you tell me the exact time (when) you hope to arrive?

Where cannot be left out unless we add a preposition.

That's the hotel where we're staying.

That's the hotel we're staying at.

In non-defining relative clauses, when and where cannot be left out.

We go swimming after 5.00, when everyone else has gone home.

He shops in Oxford, where his sister lives.

why

Why can be used to introduce defining relative clauses after the word reason. It can be left out.

Do you remember the reason why we are arguing?

We can also say *Do you remember why we are arguing?* where the clause beginning with why is the object of the verb.

Study the situations and then decide should the relative clauses be defining or non-defining (defining – no commas | non-defining – commas).

1. I have three brothers.

My brother who lives in Sidney came to see me last month.

My brother, who lives in Sidney, came to see me last month.

2. I have one sister.

My sister who is 25 years old spent her holiday in France.

My sister, who is 25 years old, spent her holiday in France.

3. Bob's mum has lost her keys.

Bob's mum who is a musician has lost her car keys.

Bob's mum, who is a musician, has lost her car keys.

4. My friend Jane moved to Canada.

My friend Jane whose husband is Canadian moved to Canada last week.

My friend Jane, whose husband is Canadian, moved to Canada last week.

5. I am a shoe fanatic.

The shoes which I bought yesterday are very comfortable.

The shoes, which I bought yesterday, are very comfortable.

6. Mr Robinson is very famous.

Mr Robinson whom I met at the trade fair is a famous inventor.

Mr Robinson, whom I met at the trade fair, is a famous inventor.

7. Tamara has two cats. Both of them are black.

Tamara's two cats which can play outside are black.

Tamara's two cats, which can play outside, are black.

8. Kevin has four cats. Two of them are black.

Kevin's two cats which are black can play outside.

Kevin's two cats, which are black, can play outside.

9. We are on holiday. Yesterday we visited a church.

The church which we visited yesterday is very old.

The church, which we visited yesterday, is very old.

10. We are on holiday. Yesterday we visited a church.

St. Mary's Church which we visited yesterday is very old.

St. Mary's Church, which we visited yesterday, is very old.

Choose the right relative pronoun to complete these sentences.

who / that / which / whose / where

1. Jim, _____ I've known for years, is my best friend.

2. My new coat, _____ I bought in New York, is very warm and comfortable.

3. My boss, _____ wife is French, travels to Paris regularly.

4. He didn't even say "thank you", _____ I found really rude.

5. Next summer I'm going to India, _____ I've never been before.

6. My sister, _____ is five years younger than me, is a lawyer.

7. Galileo Galilei, _____ supported the heliocentric theory, was arrested by the Inquisition.

Complete these sentences with a suitable relative pronoun

1. That is the man _____ helped me when I fell down in the street.

2. Is that your car? No, mine is the one _____ is parked just opposite the bank.

3. That is the woman _____ complained about the room service.

4. This is the park _____ we first met. Do you remember?

5. So, James is the man _____ son came on the school trip with us? I din't know.

6. If you have any question, ask the girl _____ is standing at the desk. She'll help you.

7. They had to put away the dog _____ bit the boy. It was too dangerous.

8. I'm looking for a person _____ surname begins with a "k".

9. Do you still go to that pub _____ we used to go as students?

10. The heating is not working. Do you know anyone _____ can fix it?

Join these sentences using relative pronouns beginning with the words given.
Omit the pronoun if possible.

1. The girl is my sister. I'm talking to the girl. |
The girl _____ is my sister.
2. This is the chair. The carpenter repaired it last week. |
This is the chair _____
3. She is married to a man. He is richer than her. |
She is married to a man _____
4. She is the friend. She helped me with my homework. |
She is the friend _____
5. That is the swimming-pool. I used to go swimming there. |
That is the swimming-pool _____
6. That is the man. His wife is a famous actress. |
This is the man _____
7. A doctor examined me last Friday. He was really kind. |
The doctor _____ was really kind.
8. The woman called the police. Her car had been stolen. |
The woman _____ called the police.
9. I went to a restaurant last week. It was very expensive. |
The restaurant _____ was very expensive.
10. I saw a film last night. It was very interesting. |
The film _____ was very interesting.

Join these sentences using relative pronouns beginning with the words given.
Omit the pronoun if possible. Add commas if necessary.

1. My school is very big. It is in Madrid. |
My school _____ is very big.
2. Robert Pattinson is an actor. He plays Edward Cullen in the Twilight saga. |
Robert Pattinson is _____
3. Robert Pattinson is a British actor. He plays Edward Cullen in the Twilight saga. |
Robert Pattinson _____ is a British actor.
4. I bought this cake yesterday. It tastes delicious. |
The cake _____ tastes delicious.
5. Michael is a policeman. His father is a judge. |
Michael _____ is a policeman.
6. I bought a computer last month. It doesn't work properly. |
The computer _____ doesn't work properly.
7. Prince Charles will be the king of England one day. His mother is Queen Elizabeth. |
Prince Charles _____ will be the king of England one day.
8. I was given a dog. It is very friendly. |
The dog _____ is very friendly.
9. The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn was written by Mark Twain. I enjoyed it a lot. |
The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn _____ was written by Mark Twain.
10. Mrs Kelly is the woman. She took me to hospital when I fainted at school. |
Mrs Kelly is the woman _____