

Relative Clauses and Relative Pronouns

Relative Clauses are parts of a sentence which give more information about a noun.

Eg. *The new employee, who was very happy to be there, smiled widely.*

Relative clauses often begin with a relative pronoun. Some very common relative pronouns are “who” for a person, “whose” for something that belongs to a person, and “which” for a thing.

Eg. *The man who talked to me had a moustache and red hair.*

Sally, whose dog began to bark, looked very worried.

Mount Everest, which is the tallest mountain int world, is 8,849 meters.



1. Complete the sentences below with either “who”, “whose”, or “which”.

- a) The waitress, **who** was very friendly, took our order.
- b) I don't know **whose** house that is, but it's gorgeous!
- c) The volcano, **which** had begun to shake and rumble, did not look safe.
- d) The building, **which** had many solar panels, was very energy efficient.
- e) Does anybody know **whose** bag this is?
- f) Do you know that girl **who** has the long hair?
- g) The guy **who** interviewed me asked a lot of strange questions.
- h) The flight to Beijing, **which** leaves at midnight, will not be serving food.
- i) My neighbours, **who** often have loud parties, aren't exactly my favourite people
- j) Janice, **whose** knees had always been bad, couldn't walk as fast as the others.

Relative clauses can often be used to define or give information about a noun.

Eg *An architect is a person who designs buildings.* (defining)

Or

Thursday is the day when we have our office meeting. (giving information)



2. Finish the sentences below with the correct relative pronoun (who, which, when, or where) and a definition of the noun (more than one definition may be correct).

- a) A butcher is a man..... *who sells meat*
- b) Christmas is the time *when everyone stops working*
- c) A train station is a place *where people catch trains*
- d) A politician is a person *who is part of a political party*
- e) The internet is an invention *which changed the world*
- f) A church is a place *where people pray*
- g) A kitchen is a room *where you cook*
- h) Winter is *when everyone stays at home*
- i) A thief is a person *who steals things*



3. Take the two sentences and make them one sentence by joining them with a relative pronoun.

- a) There is an old couple living above us. They are very sweet.
The old couple who lives above us are very sweet
- b) My neighbour drives a huge truck. It's so noisy.
My neighbour drives a truck which is noisy
- c) I work in a small building. It doesn't have air conditioning.
I work in a small building which doesn't have air conditioning
- d) We went to Malta. I met my girlfriend there.
We went to Malta where I met my girlfriend.
- e) I asked Sam. He's my Dad's best friend.
I asked Sam who is my Dad's best friend
- f) I remember a few years ago. He was happy then.
I remember a few years ago when he was happy
- g) George is a scary looking man. His nose was broken a few years ago.
George is a scary looking man whose nose was broken a few years ago
- h) My friend was talking to a woman. Her dress was very beautiful.
My friend was talking to a woman whose dress was very beautiful.
- i) I am looking for a building. The building has a large neon sign in front of it.
I am looking for a building which has a large neon sign in front of it.