Non-defining relative clauses

Mastery 1 – Unit 14
Grammar – Pages 103 and 105

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- **Non-defining relative clauses** give **extra information** to a sentence, but they are **not necessary** to the sentence.
- **Non-defining relative clauses** can **be removed from the sentence** and the sentence will still be **complete**.



The cake, which I baked yesterday, is already stale.

The barber, who loves his job, has just opened his own shop.



Repeat the sentences.



My phone, which is brand new, is already broken.

Sarah, who studied engineering, has already graduated.





The apples, which were picked yesterday, are in the cellar.

The women, who had already hiked 30kms, decided to hike another 10kms before sunset.



Non-defining relative clause

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- When a **relative clause** refers to the **whole sentence**, the relative pronoun ***which*** is used.
- In the example below, ***which*** introduces a **non-defining clause**.

It's going to be sunny weather all week, **which** is perfect for my upcoming hiking trip.

Complete the sentences with the words ‘ who ‘, ‘ which ‘ or ‘ that ‘.

A

The red cherry blossom, _____ was pruned last year, is growing very well. That is great news because the uncle _____ gave it to me is coming to visit soon.

B

The owner of the apartment, _____ I have previously rented from, has not yet agreed to rent me the apartment for the following year, _____ is really annoying because I hate searching for apartments!

Complete the sentences with the words ‘ who ‘, ‘ which ‘ or ‘ that ‘.

C

That’s the car _____ we want to buy. It is really cheap and good value for money, _____ is such good luck.

D

The cricket club _____ sponsored the event was fantastic. Their players even gave the kids free cricket tips, _____ was the best part of the whole thing for my kids.

- ***Who*** and ***which*** are often replaced with ***that*** in **defining relative clauses** in spoken English.
- In **non-defining relative clauses** these pronouns **cannot be** replaced with **that**.

Fill in the gap with a relative pronoun.

My mother, _____ is 67, spends most of her life travelling around the world on cruises. She thinks _____ cruises are the best way to see the world because rivers go everywhere. My dad on the other hand, _____ loves hiking, prefers to travel on land, _____ means they rarely ever reach an agreement. I enjoy both, _____ means I can travel everywhere with both of them.

Which clauses are defining and non-defining?

My mother, _____ is 67, spends most of her life travelling around the world on cruises. She thinks _____ cruises are the best way to see the world because rivers go everywhere. My dad on the other hand, _____ loves hiking, prefers to travel on land, _____ means they rarely ever reach an agreement. I enjoy both, _____ means I can travel everywhere with both of them.

Write two sentences for each type of clause using the relative pronouns *which*, *that* or *who*. Try and write similar sentences so that you can clearly see the difference between them.





Describe these pictures only using non-defining relative clauses.

For example: Those children, who've got costumes on, are celebrating Halloween.

Remember: Do not use *that* with non-defining relative clauses













Describe your childhood to your teacher and classmates using defining and non-defining relative clauses. Try and use ones with prepositions!

- Describe your **home**, your **family**, and any other interesting things about you.
- Take a couple of minutes to **write down some ideas** before you start.





- I lived with two brothers, **who** I played **with** in the forest nearby.
- The car **that** we owned was always breaking down, **which** was very annoying.

Transform these sentences using relative clauses

1. I don't know the girl. They went with him.

→ I don't know the boy who they went with.

2. What's the music. You are listening to it.

→ _____

_____

3. I wasn't interested in the things. They were talking about them.

→ _____

_____

4. I booked the motel. Alex is going to stay in it.

→ _____

_____

Transform these sentences using relative clauses

5. The people are lovely. I work with them. → _____

6. She got the job. She applied for it in autumn. → _____

7. That dress belong to me. You were looking at it. → _____

8. The purple bike is mine. Everyone is looking at it. → _____

5 Choose the correct answers in the sentences based on the text on page 102.

1 Sudden disasters filled the atmosphere with smoke and dust, *who* / *which* / *whose* blocked out the Sun, causing the climate to become cold and dark.

2 There have been several ice ages, *which* / *when* / *who* glaciers covered much of the Earth's surface.

3 Geologists, *which* / *whose* / *who* study the Earth's formation and its rocks, find out what happened in the past by looking at layers of rock.

4 In the southern Sahara, *who* / *which* / *where* plants and animals face a harsh desert environment, archeologists have found evidence that this was once a fertile valley.

5 Humans, *who* / *whose* / *which* activities cause global warming, need to take action.

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1 Complete the sentences with the correct relative pronoun.

1 This cell phone, which I bought second-hand, is just as good as any new model.
2 That girl, _____ name I've forgotten, goes to my school.
3 Al-Zahrawi, _____ was a surgeon, developed many medical instruments still in use today.
4 People say the author's latest book, _____ I haven't read yet, is pretty good.
5 Burj Khalifa, _____ is made of glass, steel, and aluminum, is the world's tallest skyscraper.
6 Global warming, _____ is a subject I'm very interested in, is the topic of the convention.

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2 Add the correct non-defining relative clauses to these sentences.

1 Lagos, which is a megacity, has a population of about twelve million.
2 Jill, _____, is a part-time waitress at a restaurant.
3 The Swiss Re building, _____, is one of London's tallest skyscrapers.
4 The original Globe Theater, _____, burned down.
5 My English teacher, _____, comes from New Zealand.
6 The book, _____, has become a bestseller once again.
7 My cousin, _____, is coming to visit us.



a where actors first performed Shakespeare's plays
b which people call "the Gherkin"
c which the author wrote in 1920
d ~~which is a megacity~~
e who is still a student
f whose name is Miss Castle
g who lives in Canada



3 Make each sentence longer by adding a non-defining relative clause.

1 The ice caps are melting.

The ice caps, which are in the Arctic and Antarctic, are melting.

2 The volcano erupted at 3 a.m. on Friday.

3 Some astronomers have found a new star.

4 The tourists visited the city.

5 The earthquake destroyed the entire town.

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6 Join the sentences using relative pronouns to make non-defining clauses.

1 In 2003, a new species of Pterosaur was discovered. It had a sixteen-foot wingspan. (which)

_____

_____

2 The research team discovered it in the southern Sahara. The leader of the team was Paul Sereno. (whose)

_____

_____

6 Join the sentences using relative pronouns to make non-defining clauses.

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3 Ancient rivers brought rocks to Niger long ago. The rocks contained the bones and teeth of the Pterosaur. (which)

_____

_____

4 The bones of an enormous crocodile were also found. The crocodile is known as "SuperCroc." (which)

_____

_____

5 An exhibition was held in Chicago. People could view the life-size skeleton of the new Pterosaur there. (where)

Homework

7 Read the following sentences from a London guidebook. Write similar sentences about a town you know well. Include a non-defining relative clause in each. Then share your work with the class.



Sir Christopher Wren, who designed one of the Royal Palaces, is also well-known for rebuilding London after the Great Fire in 1666.

The Post Office Tower, which was built in 1964, is 189 meters high.

Charles Dickens, whose house in Bloomsbury you can visit, was a famous writer.