# Relative Clauses

We use relative clauses to give additional information about something without starting another sentence. For example:

*A man is talking to Susan. Do you know the man?*
*Do you know the man who is talking to Susan?*

Relative clauses can be defining and non-defining.

- **Defining Relative Clauses**

  Defining relative clauses give detailed information defining a general term or expression. Defining relative clauses are often used in definitions and are not put into commas.

  *A teacher is someone who teaches a subject.*

  If the relative pronoun is followed by a verb, the relative pronoun is a *subject pronoun*. Subject pronouns must always be used.

  *The woman who lives next door is a doctor.*

  If the relative pronoun is not followed by a verb, the relative pronoun is an *object pronoun*. Object pronouns can be dropped in defining relative clauses.

  *The computer (which) we bought is very expensive.*

  If the relative comes with a preposition, it is usually dropped and the preposition is placed after the verb or before the relative pronoun.

  *The work which I applied for is well paid.*
  *The work for which I applied is well paid.*


- **Non-defining Relative Clauses**

  Non-defining relative clauses give additional information on something, but do not define it. Non-defining relative clauses are put in commas. In non-defining relative clauses the relative pronouns are never omitted.

  *Chris, who is working in my company now, is very clever.*

| RELATIVE CLAUSES | |
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| **DEFINING RELATIVE CLAUSES** | |
| USES | EXAMPLES |
| WHO/THAT (refer to people) | *He was the first person who/that studied this phenomenon.* |
| WHICH/THAT (refer to animals and objects | *This is the new mobile phone which/that I've just bought.* |
| WHEN/THAT (refer to a moment in time) | *She gave me an Ipad the day when/that I celebrated my birthday.* |
| WHERE (refers to a particular place) | *The airport was the place where he first heard the word 'Globish'.* |
| WHOSE (refers to possession) | *This is the woman whose laptop I bought.* |
| **NON-DEFINING RELATIVE CLAUSES** | |
| USES | EXAMPLES |
| WHO, WHICH, WHEN, WHERE, WHOSE can all be used THAT cannot be used | *My sister, who is a teacher, teaches Maths.* *This TV, which is old, has got poor sound quality.* |