

# Relative Clauses

I loved the **movie**.


Which movie?



**Relative clauses**, also called adjective clauses, modify **nouns**.

I loved the movie  
**that we saw last night.**

movie **that we saw  
last night**



**Relative clauses** usually begin with a relative pronoun (**who, whom, which, that, whose**).

**who** taught me to read  
**which** is on the counter  
**that** I told you about  
**whose** car broke down  
about **whom**\* I told you

\***whom** is not often used in casual conversation

**Relative clauses** are dependent clauses.  
They are not complete sentences.

That we **X** last night.



**Relative clauses** must be connected to  
an **independent clause**.

I loved the movie  
**that we saw last night.**



Sentences with **relative clauses** can be thought of as a combination of two sentences.

Ms. Jones is the teacher.

+

She taught me to read.

=

Ms. Jones is the teacher **who taught me to read.**

Sentences with **relative clauses** can be thought of as a combination of two sentences.

The cup is on the counter.

+

It is mine.

=

The cup **that is on the counter** is mine.

Sentences with **relative clauses** can be thought of as a combination of two sentences.

Jack is a nice kid.

+

Jack lives next door.

=

Jack is a nice kid **that lives next door.**



Sentences with **relative clauses** can be thought of as a combination of two sentences.

He is a man.

+

His car broke down.

=

He is the man **whose car broke down.**

The **relative pronoun** and the **modified noun** refer to the **same** thing.

Ms. Jones is **the teacher** **who** taught me to read.



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The **relative pronoun** and the **modified noun** refer to the **same** thing.

Ms. Jones is **the teacher** **who** taught me to read.



**The cup** **which** is on the counter is mine.



The **relative pronoun** and the **modified noun** refer to the **same** thing.

Ms. Jones is **the teacher** **who taught me to read**.



**The cup** **which is on the counter** is mine.



Jack is a nice **kid** **that lives next door**.



**Who/whose** can be used for **people**.

**Which** can be used for **things**.

**That** can be used for **people** or **things**.

Ms. Jones is the teacher **who** taught me to read.

He is the man **whose** car broke down.

The cup **which** is on the counter is mine.

The cup **that** is on the counter is mine.

Jack is a nice kid **that** lives next door.

**Pronouns** can be omitted in some **relative clauses**.  
This is often done in casual conversations.

I love the play **that we saw today**.

I love the play **we saw today**.

The person **who I met** is named Justin.

A person **I met** is named Justin.

This is the house **which I told you about**.

This is the house **I told you about**.

**Pronouns** cannot be omitted in **relative clauses** when the pronoun is being used as the **subject** of the clause.

I thanked the person **who** helped me.



subject of the relative clause

I thanked the person **X** helped me.



**Pronouns** cannot be omitted in **relative clauses** when the pronoun is being used as the **subject** of the clause.

I saw the person **who** won the lottery.



subject of the relative clause

I saw the person ~~who~~ won the lottery.





Click on the correct sentences.

The house which we bought is small. **correct**

The dog that we got yesterday is friendly. **correct**

The basketball player which I met is tall. **incorrect**

The basketball player who I met is tall. **correct**

The basketball player that I met is tall. **correct**

The basketball player I met is tall. **correct**

**Who/whose** can be used for **people**.

**Which** can be used for **things**.

**That** can be used for **people** or **things**.

Click on the correct sentences.

The new girl in my class is Greek. **correct**

The boy who I saw him was on a bike. **incorrect**

The boy who/that I saw was on a bike. **correct**

The boy I saw was on a bike. **correct**

The dog that we found is friendly. **correct**

Click on the best pronoun to complete the sentence.

<b>that</b>	<b>who</b>	<b>is the one</b>
<b>correct</b>	<b>incorrect</b>	<b>incorrect</b>

The car **that** we bought was expensive.

**Who/whose** can be used for **people**.

**Which** can be used for **things**.

**That** can be used for **people** or **things**.

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Click on the best pronoun to complete the sentence.

<b>which</b>	<b>who</b>	<b>is the one</b>
<b>incorrect</b>	<b>correct</b>	<b>incorrect</b>

The man **who** sold us the car was helpful.

**Who/whose** can be used for **people**.

**Which** can be used for **things**.

**That** can be used for **people** or **things**.

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# Relative Clauses

The End

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