

Book: Passages 1

Level: 10th

Unit: 3

Objective: Using relative pronouns: *who, which, that, where, when.*

Relative Pronouns

Relative pronouns introduce relative clauses.

A relative clause tells us which person or thing the speaker means/ refers to.

Defining Relative Clauses:

- Necessary information, essential to the meaning of the main sentence.
- Relative pronouns can be omitted when they are the object of the relative clause.
- The relative clause is not put in commas.

Non-Defining Relative Clauses:

- They give extra information, not essential to the meaning of the sentence.
- Relative pronouns cannot be omitted.
- THAT cannot be used.
- The relative clause is put in commas.



WHO

* refers to people

Those people live next door. They have 16 children.
The people who / that live next door have 16 children.

* as subject of the relative clause: can never be omitted

I know a man. He is a lawyer.
I know a man who / that is a lawyer.

* as object of the relative clause: can be omitted

I spoke to a man. I had met him before.
I spoke to a man (whom / who / that) I had met before.

THAT	
<p>* refers to people <u>Those people</u> live next door. <u>They</u> have 16 children. The people <u>who / that</u> live next door have 16 children.</p>	<p>* refers to things or animals <u>A turtle</u> is an animal. <u>It</u> lives in the sea. A turtle is an animal <u>which / that</u> lives in the sea.</p>
<p>* as subject of the relative clause: can never be omitted I know a man. <u>He</u> is a lawyer. I know a man <u>who / that</u> is a lawyer.</p>	<p>The dog ran away. <u>The dog</u> is mine. The dog <u>which / that</u> ran away is mine.</p>
<p>* as object of the relative clause: can be omitted I spoke to <u>a man</u>. I had met <u>him</u> before. I spoke to a man (<u>whom / who / that</u>) I had met before.</p>	<p>That's the book. I read <u>it</u> last summer. That's the book (<u>which / that</u>) I read last summer.</p>
<p>* it can never be used after a comma or a preposition The painting <u>that</u> was hanging in the foyer was stolen. The painting, <u>which</u> I had hung in the foyer, was stolen.</p> <p>(While this nonrestrictive use tells us that the painting was hanging in the foyer, it does not tell us which of the several paintings in the foyer was the stolen painting. It would be incorrect to use this nonrestrictive clause if there had been only one painting in the foyer, as the sentence leaves open the possibility that there were others.)</p> <p>The Van Gogh <u>that</u> was hanging in the foyer, <u>which</u> we purchased in 1929 for \$10,000, was stolen.</p> <p>(Explanation: The restrictive clause beginning with "that" tells us that there was only one Van Gogh hanging in the foyer and that it was stolen. The nonrestrictive clause beginning with "which" tells us what the owner had paid for the painting, but it does not tell us that the owner did not pay another \$10,000 for another painting in the same year. It does not limit the possibilities to the Van Gogh that was in the foyer.)</p>	

WHICH	
<p>* refers to things <u>A turtle</u> is an animal. <u>It</u> lives in the sea. A turtle is an animal which / that lives in the sea.</p>	
<p>* as subject of the relative clause: can never be omitted The dog ran away. <u>The dog</u> is mine. The dog which / that ran away is mine.</p>	<p>* as object of the relative clause: can be omitted That's the book. I read <u>it</u> last summer. That's the book (which / that) I read last summer.</p>

WHEN	
<p>* refers to time, after nouns like: time, period, moment, day... I'll never forget the day when I first met him.</p>	<p>* always use it after a named time Come back at 3:30, when I won't be busy.</p>

WHERE	
<p>* refers to place, after nouns like: place, house, street, town and country The street where we used to play is very busy now.</p>	<p>* always use it after a named place I stopped in Dallas, where my sister lives.</p>