

Relative Clauses

Lesson Plan

Aim: To support students in their understanding and use of defining & non-defining relative clauses.

Time: 60 minutes plus homework task.

Lesson Suggestion

Lead in

- Distribute or project **worksheet 1**. Students ask & answer the **lead in** questions
- Feedback: project the **writing criteria** for your course if you have one (Assessment: development of ideas, students' voice (non-defining) and accuracy of language)

Guided Practice

1. **Task 1:** students analyse the sentences & then compare with a partner.
2. Feedback: project or distribute **worksheet 1 task 1 ANSWERS**.
3. Students read the **grammar review** - defining relative clauses.
4. **Task 2:** students rewrite the sentences using the given information (defining).
5. Feedback: project or distribute **worksheet 1 task 2 ANSWERS**.
6. **Task 3:** students complete table and answer the questions to see the difference between the defining & non-defining relative clauses.
7. Feedback: project or distribute **worksheet 1 task 3 ANSWERS**.
8. Students read the **grammar review** – non-defining relative clauses.
9. **Task 4:** students rewrite the sentences using the given information (non-defining).
10. Feedback: project or distribute **worksheet 1 task 4 ANSWERS**.

Freer Practice

- Students rewrite the paragraph to include defining & non-defining clauses.
- Feedback: project or distribute **worksheet 1 task 5 ANSWERS**.

Homework

- Students select a topic & write a paragraph paying particular attention to development ideas in the way of relative clauses.
- Feedback options: i. Teachers - take in and mark. Use correction code: <https://www.academic-englishuk.com/error-correction> ii. Students - peer feedback. Use **checklist** provided.

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Worksheet 1: Relative Clauses

Lead in

- How do you generally develop your paragraphs?
- What different [redacted] in using and why?
- How do you usually vary your sentence structure?
- How [redacted] paragraphs?

Task 1

What's wrong with the following sentences? Compare with a partner:

1. The managers had to lay off their workforce who they had hired just six months previously.

2. It was Tim Berners [redacted] Web.

3. France is [redacted] number of visitors.

4. English [redacted] the most words.

5. Wal-Mart was founded by Sam Walton who son is now chairman.

6. *Hourglass* is one of the [redacted] the last five years.

Grammar Review – Defining Clauses

Rule	Example
Defining relative clauses contain essential information and are dependent clauses so no commas are used.	<i>English is the language which has the most words.</i>
We use 'whom' NOT 'who' when the person is the object of the verb in the clause.	<i>The managers had to lay off their workforce who whom they had hired just six months previously.</i>
We use 'where' when referring to places, 'when' for time and 'that' or 'which' for things NOT 'what'.	<i>Hourglass is one of the companies what that Unilever has acquired in the last five years.</i>
We use 'who' when referring to people but 'whose' when referring to a possessive.	<i>Wal-Mart was founded by Sam Walton who whose son is now chairman.</i>
We use 'which' when referring to things instead of 'that' in formal writing.	<i>France is the country which has the biggest number of visitors.</i>
The relative pronoun can be omitted if it is the object of the verb.	<i>The sponsorship deal (that) the football club wanted fell through.</i>

Task 2

Rewrite the following sentences to include a defining relative clause. Use the information in brackets:

1. The company's CEO left the business to his son. (He had worked for him for 20 years).

2. The clothes [redacted]. (It made the largest profits).

3. The airline [redacted] as they gained 2 years previously).

4. My sister [redacted] office last week).

5. The customer [redacted] had insulted her).

6. First impressions [redacted] occasions is the first 30 seconds of a job interview).

Task 3

Match sentences 1-6 with explanations A-F:

1. My sister who is a doctor lives in London.	A. All the local charity shops help the homeless
2. My sister, [redacted] in London.	B. Only [redacted] - faire manager were unhappy
3. It is a good idea to donate as many unwanted [redacted], which help the homeless	C. I have several sisters and one is a doctor
4. It is a good idea to donate as many unwanted clothes [redacted] which help the homeless	D. I have only one sister
5. The employees whose manager was laissez-faire were unhappy	E. Some [redacted] help the homeless; some help other types of charities
6. The [redacted] faire, were unhappy	F. All the employees were unhappy possibly [redacted] manager

Answer the following questions to identify some rules about non-defining clauses from the examples:

1. Can 'who' be replaced by 'that'?
2. When do we use commas?
3. Can you omit the relative pronoun?
4. Can you use 'that' instead of 'which'?

Grammar Review – Non-defining Clauses

Rule	Example
Non-defining relative clauses contain extra information so commas are used to show that the clause can be removed without affecting the meaning of the sentence.	<i>Soya beans, which are traded as commodities, have seen recent volatility in their spot price.</i>
We do not need to repeat the subject pronoun after the relative clause if the subject is the same.	<i>Many open plan office staff, who work very long hours, they (i.e. office staff) complain about their working conditions.</i>
When referring to things, we must only use 'which' NOT that.	<i>Processed food and ready meals contain several chemicals and preservatives, that which are not always stated on the packaging.</i>
The relative pronouns 'who', 'whom', 'whose', 'which', 'where' 'why' and 'when' can NOT be omitted.	<i>The newspaper, whose editor was convicted of phone hacking, ceased circulation in 2011.</i>

Task 4

Rewrite the following sentences to include a non-defining relative clause. Use the information in brackets:

1. Soya beans have seen recent volatility in their spot price. (They are traded as commodities).

2. Processed food and _____ and preservatives. (These _____ the packaging).

3. The newspaper ceased _____ of phone hacking).

4. The Finnish Prime Minister _____ working week. (_____ political leaders).

5. The multi-millionaire's children _____ package. (All _____ married).

6. The second most visited _____ . (You can visit the famous castle there).

Task 5

Rewrite the paragraph below to include a range of defining and non-defining relative clauses:

Advertising is defined as a form of communication in [redacted] changed significantly since the introduction of social media. The traditional channels of advertising on the [redacted] now shifted towards digital outlets. They can reach more people. The number of adults using [redacted]. It is beneficial for brands because their public profiles can be raised and shared amongst millions of [redacted] companies with brand building, as well as acquiring new customers and introducing new products and services. [redacted] effectively [redacted] advertises in places such as billboards and [redacted] places will still serve [redacted] spend more time online in general.

Write your paragraph here:

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Homework

Select one of the following topics and write a short paragraph including defining and non-defining clauses:

1. Uniforms at work.
2. Salaries.
3. [REDACTED].
4. Saturday jobs for teenagers.
5. [REDACTED].

Write your paragraph here:

[REDACTED]

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Peer feedback

Improve your own writing skills by analysing your partner's paragraph:

Has your partner...	Yes / No / Not Sure
included both defining and non-defining relative clauses?	
used [REDACTED] to people, places and things?	
placed commas in the correct position in non-defining relative clauses?	
used [REDACTED] using a preposition and when referring to an object?	

Worksheet 1: Relative Clauses (ANSWERS)

TASK 1

1. The managers had to lay off their workforce **whom** they had hired just six months previously.
2. It was Tim Berners-Lee **who** invented the World Wide Web

ALL ANSWERS ARE PROVIDED IN THE PAID VERSION...

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