

## RELATIVE CLAUSES

Una oración de relativo es un tipo de oración subordinada que da información sobre el sujeto u objeto de una frase. Se coloca a continuación del nombre que describe y a menudo empieza con un pronombre relativo como "who" o "which". Se dividen en dos tipos, defining (especificativas) y non-defining (explicativas).

La oración "**defining**" deja claro a qué persona o cosa nos estamos refiriendo en concreto y es fundamental para comprender correctamente la oración. No se separa de la oración principal por medio de comas.

Ejemplo: *The girl **who lives here** is my friend.*

La oración "**non-defining**" da más información acerca del nombre que sigue. Sin embargo, incluso sin esta información sabemos de qué se está hablando. Se separa del resto de la oración por medio de comas\*.

Ejemplo: *Anne, **who is my cousin**, wrote me a letter.*

### \*Importancia de las comas en las oraciones de relativo.

Comparemos estas oraciones:

a. *The boys **who wanted to play football** were disappointed when it rained.*

b. *The boys, **who wanted to play football**, were disappointed...*

(a) implica que sólo algunos de los chicos querían jugar al fútbol y éstos eran los que estaban desilusionados. (b) indica que todos los chicos querían jugar y que todos ellos estaban desilusionados.

## 1. DEFINING RELATIVE CLAUSES

Se colocan detrás de combinaciones como the + noun, a/an + noun y pronombres como all, none, anybody, somebody, those,... Algunas veces estas frases van separadas de su antecedente por otra palabra o frase:

Ejemplo: *There's a man **here** who wants to talk to you.*

Los pronombres relativos usados en defining clauses son

	Subject	Object	Possessive
For persons	who that	whom/who that	whose
For things	which that	which that	whose / of which

### Persons

#### A. Subject: who or that

Normalmente se usa *who*, ej. *The man **who** robbed you has been arrested.*

Pero *that* es una alternativa posible después de **all, everyone, everybody, no one, nobody** and **those**, ej. *Everybody **who/that** knew him liked him.*

#### B. Object of a verb: whom or who or that.

*Whom* es muy formal. En inglés hablado se usa normalmente *who* o *that* y es aún más común omitir el relativo.

Ejemplo: *The man **whom** I saw told me to come back today*

*The man **who** I saw .../The man **that** I saw .../ The man I saw...*

#### C. With a preposition: whom, who o that

En inglés formal, la preposición se coloca delante del pronombre relativo, que en este caso solo puede ser *whom*, ej. *The man **to whom** I spoke...*

En estilo informal, lo normal es poner la preposición al final de la oración. Se puede mantener *whom* o *who*, pero lo común es sustituirlo por *that*. Aún es más usual omitir el relativo,

The man **that** I spoke to.../ The man I spoke to...

#### D. Possessive: Whose

Whose es la única forma posible, Ej. *The film is about a spy **whose** wife betrays him.*

#### Things

##### A. Subject: Which or that

*Which* es más formal, ej. *The stairs **which/ that** lead to the cellar are rather slippery.*

##### B. Object of a verb:

*Which* (menos frecuente) o *that* o ningún relativo, ej. *The car (**which/that**) I hired broke down.*

##### C. Object of a preposition.

La construcción formal es preposición + *which*, pero es más normal colocar la preposición al final de la oración, usando *which* o *that* u omitiendo el relativo.

Ejemplo. *The ladder **on which** I was standing began to slip*

*The ladder **which/that** I was standing **on** .../ The ladder I was standing **on**...*

##### D. Possessive

*Whose* + oración es posible pero *with* + frase es más común.

Ejemplo: *A **whose** **whose** walls were made of glass = a house **with** glass walls.*

##### E. Adverbios de relativo: when, where, why.

*When* = in/on which (tiempo), ej. *The day **when** (= on which) they arrived...*

*Where*=in/at which (lugar), ej. *The hotel **where** (=in/at which) they are staying...*

*Why*=for which (causa). Ej. *The reason **why** he refused...*

## 2. NON-DEFINING RELATIVE CLAUSES

El pronombre **nunca** puede omitirse en este tipo de oración de relativo. Siempre se coloca entre comas. Es una construcción muy formal más usada en lenguaje escrito que hablado.

Los pronombres usados en non-defining relative clauses son:

	Subject	Object	Possessive
For persons	who	whom/who	whose
For things	which	which	whose/of which

#### Persons

##### A. Subject: who

Nunca se omite el pronombre.

Ejemplo: *Peter, **who** had been driving all day, suggested stopping at the next town.*

Estas construcciones, donde la oración aparece detrás del **sujeto** de la oración principal, son infrecuentes en inglés hablado. Se prefieren otras como por ejemplo *Peter had been driving all day, so he suggested...*

Sin embargo, si la oración de relativo va detrás del **objeto** de la oración principal, se usan bastante en conversación, ej. *I've invited Ann, **who** lives in the next flat.*

##### B. Object: whom, who

No se puede omitir el pronombre. La forma correcta es *whom*, aunque en conversación se puede usar *who*.

Ejemplo: *Peter, **whom** everyone suspected, turned out to be innocent.*

##### C. Object of a preposition: whom

No se puede omitir el pronombre. La preposición se colocará delante de *whom* o al final de la frase, ej. *Peter, **with whom** I played tennis, was fitter than me.*

*Peter, **whom** I played tennis **with**, ...*

En el segundo ejemplo se puede sustituir *whom* por *who* (inglés hablado).



Si hay una expresión de tiempo, se colocará el final de la oración de relativo, ej..., *whom I played tennis with on Saturday...*

**D. Possessive: whose** → *cuyo*

No podemos omitir el pronombre, ej. *Ann, whose children are at school, is trying to get a job.*

**E. All, both, few, most, several, some, numerals, etc. + of + whom (personas)/which (cosas)**

Ejemplo: *Her sons, both of whom live abroad, ring her up every week.*

*The buses, most of which were full, were surrounded by a lot of people.*

### Things

**A. Subject: which**

Nunca se omite

Ejemplo: *The train, which is usually very punctual, was late today.*

**B. Object: which**

Nunca se omite.

Ejemplo: *She gave me this jumper, which she had knitted herself.*

**C. Object of a preposition**

No se omite le relativo

La preposición va delante de *which* o al final de la frase, ej. *His house, for which he paid L10,000, is now L50,000. / His house, which he paid L10,000 for, ...*

**D. Possessive: whose or of which.**

No se omite el relativo. *Of which* es muy formal y apenas se usa.

Ejemplo: *His house, whose windows were all broken, was very old.*

### What / Which

What = The thing(s) that.

Ejemplo: *What we saw astonished us. = The things that we saw astonished us.*

No hay que confundir el relativo *what* con el relativo conectivo *which*. *Which* tiene que hacer referencia a una palabra o grupo de palabras en la oración anterior mientras que *what* no se refiere a nada anterior.

## 1º de BACHILLERATO - RELATIVE CLAUSES

### A) DEFINING

1.- Complete the following sentences using relative pronouns and omitting the pronoun when possible.

- 1.- I know a boy ..... father is a very important person.
- 2.- This is the place ..... we have tea.
- 3.- That is the man ..... came yesterday.
- 4.- Tomorrow I'll tell you the hour ..... you must come.
- 5.- People ..... never work don't earn money.
- 6.- This is the boy ..... I met in the park.
- 7.- Dogs ..... bite people are dangerous.
- 8.- The clock ..... is over the door is broken.
- 9.- That is the boy ..... car is completely new.
- 10.- Give me the ball ..... I lent you last Sunday.
- 11.- I haven't found the money in the place ..... you told me it would be.
- 12.- Who is that man ..... is parking the car?
- 13.- Tell me the time ..... you are going to arrive.
- 14.- That radio ..... is on the table is not yours.
- 15.- The woman ..... is speaking to Tom is her mother.
- 16.- Do you know the wife of that man ..... is waiting for the bus?
- 17.- The car ..... I saw was not that.
- 18.- That is the girl ..... car is blue.
- 19.- This is the exercise ..... I don't understand.
- 20.- The policemen ..... helped me yesterday were very nice.
- 21.- Which is the cinema ..... that very good film is on?
- 22.- The girl ..... hair is red is my sister.
- 23.- Where is the bike ..... you have repaired?
- 24.- Women ..... drive vehicles are usually more careful than men.
- 25.- That is the garage ..... my father parks his car.

2- Join these sentences by means of a relative pronoun, but omit it when possible.

- 1.- The pub is opposite the Town Hall. I first met my wife there.
- 2.- He was sitting on a chair. It was uncomfortable.
- 3.- He smokes cigarettes. They are very strong.
- 4.- Let me see the pictures. You took them at Peter's wedding.
- 5.- Some people only think about money. I don't like them.
- 6.- Do you know that lady? I repaired her car.
- 7.- That girl is Swedish. Tom is in love with her.
- 8.- John has bought a house. There are ghosts in that house.
- 9.- Some people drive drunk. I never travel with them.

10.- A man stole £10,000 from a bank. The police have caught him.

11.- I bought bananas this morning. I have lost them.

12.- Could you iron those trousers? They're hanging up behind the door.

13.- He worked with some people. They thought he was stupid.

14.- When I looked through the window I saw a girl. Her beauty took my breath away.

15.- These are the books. I use them in the class.

16.- That's the name. I couldn't remember it yesterday.

17.- The film is about two people. Their plane crashed in the jungle.

18.- The film is about a king. His ambition was to rule the world.

19.- They are the people. I was talking about them.

20.- That is the tunnel. I went through it.

21.- There is the shop. I bought my radio from it.

22.- He's the criminal. The police are looking for him.

### B) NON-DEFINING (Same instructions as for A.2)

1.- John didn't study for the exam. That was a very stupid thing to do.

2.- We flew to New York in the Concorde. It is the fastest passenger plane in the world.

3.- Smallpox has disappeared. It once killed thousand of people every year.

4.- I passed him a large glass of whisky. He drank it immediately.

5.- The small man was Lisa's husband. Nobody recognised him.

6.- This is Mr. Jones. He writes poetry.

7.- This is Felicity. You met her sister last week.

8.- He swam across the English Channel. It is hard to believe that.

9.- Her wife died last year. Her name was Angeia.

10.- Borges was a wonderful writer. He never won the Nobel Prize.

11.- A man from our village was on TV last night. I teach his children.

12.- Charlie Chaplin died in 1977. His films amused millions.

13.- My parents send their best wishes. You met them last month.

14.- The parcel contained a bomb. They had opened it carefully.

15.- The match will be shown on TV tonight. They filmed it this afternoon.

6.- His sisters are identical twins. I saw them last year.