## DEFINING RELATIVE CLAUSES

GRAMMAR

## RELATIVE CLAUSES

Relative clauses are sentences which give information about someone or something previously mentioned (antecedent).

For example: I have a sister who has got two dogs.

We use relative pronouns to introduce relative clauses.

For example: We found a hotel which is cheaper.

## RELATIVE PRONOUNS

As previously mentioned, relative pronouns are used to introduce relative clauses. Now, we will mention the most common relative pronouns.



- Who: this relative pronoun is used when the antecedent is a person.
- For example:

There are people who live in a mobile home.

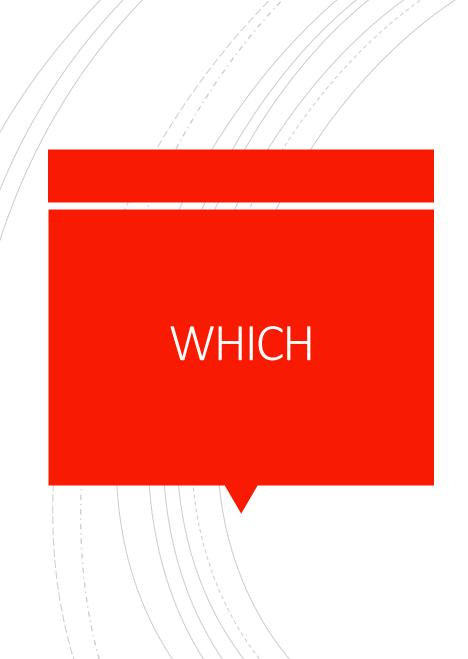
There are people (antecedent) who (relative pronoun) live in a mobile home.

• IMPORTANT! This pronoun can be omitted when it isn't the subject of the relative clause. For instance:

These are the people who I met the other day.

These are the people I met the other day.

These are the people <u>who</u> play football every day. (The pronoun cannot be omitted here because it has the function of subject).



- Which: this relative pronoun is used when the antecedent is an object or an animal.
- For example:

We bought a new house which is bigger.

We bought a new house (antecedent) which (relative pronoun) is bigger.

■ IMPORTANT! This pronoun can be omitted when it isn't the subject of the relative clause. For instance:

We adopted a new cat which I love.

We adopted a new cat I love.

We adopted a new cat **which** is black and white. (The pronoun cannot be omitted here because it has the function of subject).



■ That: this relative pronoun is used to refer to animals, things or people.

For example:

This is a dog that I will never forget.

This is a dog (antecedent) that (relative pronoun) I will never forget.

• IMPORTANT! This pronoun can be omitted when it isn't the subject of the relative clause. For instance:

This is a dog that I will never forget.

This is a dog I will never forget.

We saw a dog that was black and white. (The pronoun cannot be omitted here because it has the function of subject).



This relative pronoun is used when the antecedent is a place. It cannot be omitted. It cannot be substituted by that.

For example:

That is the university where I want to study.

That is the university (antecedent) where
(relative pronoun) I want to study.



This relative pronoun is used when the antecedent is a time sentence. For example:

Monday is the day when the exams started.



- Whose is a relative pronoun used when the antecedent is a person. It expresses possession.
- For example:

I met a boy whose mother is a lawyer.

## SUMMARY

| PRONOUN                            | EXAMPLE   |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Who (people)                       | The woman <b>who lives next door</b> works in a bank. (La mujer <b>que vive en la casa de al lado</b> trabaja en un banco.) |
| Which (objects and animals)        | The t-shirt <b>which I love</b> is clean.<br>(La camiseta <b>que me encanta</b> está limpia.)                               |
| That (objects, animals and people) | The laptop <b>that</b> I bought last week is broken.<br>(El portátil que compré la semana pasada está roto.)                |
| Where (places)                     | That's the stadium <b>where Real Madrid plays</b> . (Aquel es el estadio <b>donde juega el Real Madrid</b> .)               |
| When (time)                        | Summer is the season <b>when I'm happiest</b> .<br>(El verano es la estación <b>en la que estoy más feliz</b> .)            |
| Whose (possession)                 | He's a musician whose albums have sold millions. (El es un músico cuyos álbumes han vendido millones de copias.)            |



- Click <a href="here">here</a> to do exercises about relative clauses.
- Click <u>here</u> for another exercise.
- Click <u>here</u> to go to the British Council explanation and exercises about relative pronouns.
- Video quiz.

