



There is the boy \_\_\_\_\_ parents were on TV.

This is a book \_\_\_\_\_ I was telling you about.

I've got a friend \_\_\_\_\_ lives in New York.

I still live in the house \_\_\_\_\_ I was born.

which

who

where

whose

A satellite view of Earth from space, showing the curvature of the planet and various geographical features like land, water, and clouds. The image is used as a background for the text boxes.

Complete the sentences using a relative clause.

This is the place ...

I read the book ...

He's the man ...

Those are the people ...

1. Read the quotes.  
Which of these causes could you support?  
Which other charities do you know about?

**char-i-ty** /ˈtʃærəti/ ●●○ **S3** **W3** **noun** (plural charities) 🔊 🔊

1 **[countable]** an organization that gives money, goods, or help to people who are poor, sick etc → **charitable**

🔊 Several charities sent aid to the flood victims.

**charity event/walk/concert etc** (=an event organized to collect money for a charity)



'I'm raising money for people whose homes were destroyed in last year's floods.'

'The charity which I support raises money for children who are seriously ill.'

'I donate to charities dedicated to helping poor people in drought-affected areas, who are at risk from starvation and disease.'

charity

to encourage

to donate

to dedicate

drought

starvation

defining  
clauses  
inform

### Defining relative clauses

- 1 A defining relative clause adds essential information.  
The sentence often doesn't make sense without it.

*This is the coal mine where my grandad worked.*

- 2 We do not put a comma before the clause.

### Non-defining relative clauses

- 1 A non-defining relative clause adds extra information.  
The sentence still makes sense without it.

*Global warming is caused by greenhouse gases, which include carbon dioxide and methane.*

- 2 We put a comma before the clause, and also after it if the sentence continues.

*Fossil fuels, which include coal and oil, are running out.*

### Relative pronouns

- 1 In informal contexts, we can replace *who* or *which* with *that* in defining relative clauses, but not in non-defining relative clauses.

- 2 In defining relative clauses *which* or *who* can be omitted if it is the object of the clause.

*I welcome the measures the Government is taking to combat climate change.*

- 3 We can replace *who* with *whom* if it is the object of the clause, but it is formal.

non-defining relative  
clauses (extra  
information)

possession

whose

What are the  
non-defining

When do we

When can we omit which or who?

Learn this! box

Decide which are defining relative clauses and which are non-defining relative clauses.

check yourself

'I support a charity called Anti-Bags, which encourages people to stop using plastic bags.'

non-defining

'I'm raising money for people whose homes were destroyed in last year's floods.'

Identify the relative clause in which the relative pronoun can be replaced with that.

check yourself

defining

'The charity which I support raises money for children who are seriously ill.'

'I donate to charities dedicated to helping poor people in drought-affected areas, who are at risk from starvation and disease.'

non-defining

Identify the relative clause in which the relative pronoun can be omitted.

check yourself

All these sentences contain mistakes in grammar, punctuation or style.  
Correct them.

1. The man, ~~who's~~ wearing a tie, ~~is~~ my uncle.

2. Space junk is a problem, ~~which~~ is getting worse.

rubbish

who

3. I've got a friend ~~what~~ lives in Japan.

whose

4. Solar energy is an idea ~~which~~ time has come.

Who

5. ~~Whom~~ did you dance with at the night club?

Combine the two sentences with a defining relative clause.  
Use **who**, **which**, **where** or **whose**.  
In which sentences can we a) omit the relative pronoun? b)  
replace **who** or **which** with **that**?

1 I know a lot of people. They are opposed to wind farms.  
I know a lot of people **who** ...

2. Tom works in a factory **where** they make solar panels. **b)**

3. From here you can see the enormous wind turbine **which** we were protesting about. **a) b)**

4. I met some eco-protesters **who** the police were trying to evict. **a) b)**  
them.

5. I support a charity **which** campaigns against the use of fossil fuels for energy generation. **b)**

6. I found a piece of space junk **which** hadn't burnt up in the Earth's atmosphere. **b)**

7. That's the nuclear power station **where** my dad has been working for the past five years.

Combine the two sentences with a non-defining relative clause, either in the middle or at the end of the sentences. Add the correct punctuation.

1 Fossil fuels are not a renewable source of energy. They are found deep underground.

сланцевый газ

2. Shale gas, which is gas trapped in shale formations, is becoming an increasingly important source of natural gas.

3. There are many types of renewable energy, which governments are investing in.

4. People in industrialised countries, who have already benefited from years of economic growth, should be the first to reduce carbon emissions.

5. Farm animals release a lot of methane, which is a very potent greenhouse gas.

6. Nuclear power stations produced a lot of radioactive waste, which is difficult to dispose of.

7. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is an international organisation, whose aim is to assess the impact of climate change.

Rewrite each pair of sentences as one sentence. Use defining or non-defining relative clauses and appropriate punctuation.

- 1 Here's the money. I owe it to you.
- 2 I run three times a week. It keeps me healthy.
- 3 I made Joe a sandwich. He ate it at once.
- 4 I live in a village called South Milton. It has a population of 600.
- 5 We look after stray dogs. Their owners can't be traced.

1. Here's the money (that) I owe you.

2. I run three times a week, which keeps me healthy.

3. I made Joe a sandwich, which he ate at once.

4. I live in a village called South Milton, which has a population of 600.

5. We look after stray dogs whose owners can't be traced.

Complete the text with the relative pronouns in the box.

that

when

where

which

who

whose

**The British Interplanetary Society,** <sup>1</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ was founded in 1933, is an organisation <sup>2</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ promotes space exploration. In the early days, <sup>3</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ humans had not yet been into space, they worked on designs for rockets. More recently, they have argued in favour of building a space station on Mars, <sup>4</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ scientists would be able to study the rocks and climate. Today, the Society is headed by Dr Robert Parkinson, <sup>5</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ has worked for various aerospace companies. But in the 1940s, its chairman was science fiction writer Arthur C. Clarke, <sup>6</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ novel *2001: A Space Odyssey* was made into a well-known science fiction film.

Complete the sentences (1-6) using the clauses (a-f). Add a relative pronoun only if necessary.

- 1 I think I've lost the book **my best friend gave me for my birthday**
- 2 Covent Garden, **which** used to be a fruit and vegetables market, is a popular place for tourists to visit.
- 3 Harper Lee, **whose** first novel was *To Kill A Mockingbird*, did not like appearing in public.
- 4 Camp Nou stadium, **where** Barcelona play their home matches, can hold nearly 99,000 fans.
- 5 The hotel **we stayed at in Paris last summer** burned down last week.
- 6 I wish I hadn't lost the phone number of the girl **I met at my cousin's wedding.**

a Barcelona play their home matches

b used to be a fruit and vegetable market

c we stayed at in Paris last summer

d my best friend gave me for my birthday

e I met at my cousin's wedding

f first novel was *To Kill A Mockingbird*

Read the Learn this! box. Find one participle clause in the quotes in exercise 1.

exercise 1

the answer

LEARN THIS!

Show

1 S

P

T

O

P

G

P

2 T

T

C

'I support a charity called Anti-Bags, which encourages people to stop using plastic bags.'

'I'm raising money for people whose homes were destroyed in last year's floods.'

'The charity which I support raises money for children who are seriously ill.'

'I donate to charities dedicated to helping poor people in drought-affected areas, who are at risk from starvation and disease.'

Rewrite the sentences using shortened relative clauses.

- 1 People **working** for private companies usually get paid more than those in the public sector.
- 2 Is that your dog **making** a mess on the lawn?
- 3 This self-portrait, **painted** by Van Gogh in 1889, is one of his finest.
- 4 I saw a young girl **stealing** a CD.
- 5 We visited a castle **built** in the sixteenth century.
- 6 I only eat food **made** with fresh ingredients.

Combine the two sentences. Use a shortened relative clause.

1 Was that your brother? He was talking to Sue.

Was that your brother talking to Sue?

2 The police have arrested the woman **seen** shop-  
lifting on CCTV.

3 I've got a photo of my grandad **driving** an old

ing next door was a climate change

mhouse. **built** in 1855.

he address book **containing** all my frie  
ils.

7 The insurance company have replaced the vase  
broken by the removal men.



Rewrite the shortened relative clauses that are underlined as full relative clauses. You do not need to rewrite the whole sentence.

- 1 Police are questioning a man who was arrested at the scene.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 2 They have seized several computers which/that belonged to the victim.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 3 Last week, a newspaper received a letter which/that was signed by the suspect.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 4 Rumours of a video recording, which had been denied by the police, have been reported by news agencies.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 5 Journalists were shown a bag which/that contained various weapons.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 6 The victim's house, which was built in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, was the scene of a fire last year.  
\_\_\_\_\_

Work in pairs. How many sentences can you make in one minute by adding different relative clauses and other words and phrases?

Last week I met someone who  
knows my cousin.

... is the place ...

What did you think of the film ...

I've got a friend ...

...I was born in 20\_\_ ...

A good student is one ...



# Homework

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What have you learned today?

What can you do now?

