

DEFINING AND NON-DEFINING RELATIVE CLAUSES



Read the sentences. Are they the same or different?

- Ann's sister *who is a tennis champion* visited her last weekend.

- Has Ann got more than one sister?

- YES

- Ann's sister, *who is a tennis champion,* visited her last weekend.

- Has Ann got more than one sister?

- NO



- **Defining relative clauses**
- They give **ESSENTIAL INFORMATION**
- We **DON'T USE COMMAS** in them.
- Ann's sister who is a tennis champion visited her last weekend.
- The table whose legs are broken is at the back of the classroom.



- **Non-defining relative clauses**
- They give EXTRA INFORMATION
- We USE COMMAS in them

- Ann's sister, who is a tennis champion, visited her last week.
- (We probably know that Ann has got only one sister)
- Charles Dickens, whose novel *Oliver Twist* we read last term, was born two hundred years ago.
- (We already know that Ch. Dickens wrote *Oliver Twist*)



VERY

IMPORTANT

- **Non-defining** relative clauses are also called **non-essential** relative clauses.
- You **cannot omit the pronoun** in non-defining relative clauses.
- ***That*** cannot replace *who* or *which*.