

UNIT 84

Relative clauses (1) – clauses with **who/that/which**

a Study this example:

The man who lives next door is very friendly.
└ relative clause ┘

A *clause* is a part of a sentence. A *relative clause* tells us which person or thing (or what kind of person or thing) the speaker means:

- The man **who lives next door** . . . (**who lives next door** tells us which man)
- People **who live in Paris** . . . (**who live in Paris** tells us what kind of people)

We use **who** in a relative clause when we are talking about *people*. We use **who** instead of **he/she/they**:

the man – he lives next door – is very friendly
 → The man who lives next door is very friendly.
 we know a lot of people – they live in Boston
 → We know a lot of people who live in Boston.

- An architect is someone **who designs buildings**.
- What was the name of the man **who lent you the money**?
- The girl **who was injured in the accident** is now in the hospital.
- Anyone **who wants to take the exam** must sign up before next Friday.

It is also possible to use **that** instead of **who**:

- The man **that** lives next door is very friendly.

But sometimes you must use **who** for people – see Unit 87.

b When we are talking about *things*, we use **that** (not **who**) in a relative clause. We use **that** instead of **it/they**:

where are the eggs? – they were in the refrigerator
 Where are the eggs that were in the refrigerator?

- I don't like stories **that have unhappy endings**.
- Jerry works for a company **that makes typewriters**.
- Everything **that happened** was my fault.
- The window **that was broken** has now been repaired.

You can also use **which** for things (but not for people):

- Where are the eggs **which** were in the refrigerator?

That is more usual than **which** in the sentences in this unit. But sometimes you must use **which** – see Unit 87.

c Remember that we use **who/that/which** instead of **he/she/they/it**:

- Do you know the man **who** lives next door? (*not . . . who he lives . . .*)

Now study the next unit for more information about relative clauses.

UNIT 85

Relative clauses (2) – clauses with or without **who/that**

a Look again at these examples from Unit 84:

- The man **who lives next door** is very friendly. (*or that lives*)
- Where are the eggs **that were in the refrigerator**? (*or which were*)

In these sentences **who** and **that** are *subjects* of the verbs in the relative clauses: the man lives next door, the eggs were in the refrigerator. You cannot leave out **who** or **that** in these sentences.

Sometimes **who** and **that** are *objects* of the verbs:

the man – I wanted to see **him** – was away on vacation
 → The man **who** (or **that**) I wanted to see was away on vacation.
 have you found the keys? – you lost **them**
 → Have you found the keys **that** you lost?

When **who** or **that** are objects of the verb in the relative clause, you can leave them out:

- **The man I wanted to see** was away on vacation. (*but not* The man I wanted to see *him* was away on vacation.)
- Have you found **the keys you lost**? (*but not* Have you found the keys you lost *them*?)
- **The dress Ann bought** doesn't fit her very well. (= the dress **that** Ann bought)
- **The woman Jerry is going to marry** is Mexican. (= the woman **who/that** Jerry is going to marry)
- Is there **anything I can do**? (= is there anything **that** I can do?)

b There are often prepositions (**in/at/with**, etc.) in relative clauses. Study the position of the prepositions in these sentences:

do you know the girl? – Tom is talking **to** her
 → Do you know the girl (**who/that**) Tom is talking **to** ?
 the bed – I slept **in** it last night – wasn't very comfortable
 → The bed (**that**) I slept **in** last night wasn't very comfortable.

- The man (**who/that**) I sat next to on the plane talked all the time.
- Are these the books (**that**) you have been looking for?
- The girl (**who/that**) he fell in love with left him after a few weeks.

c You cannot use **what** instead of **that**:

- Everything (**that**) he said was true. (*not* everything what he said)
- I gave her all the money (**that**) I had. (*not* all . . . what I had)

What = the thing(s) that:

- Did you hear **what I said**? (= the words that I said)
- I won't tell anyone **what happened**. (= the thing that happened)

UNIT 86

Relative clauses (3) – **whose**, **whom**, and **where**

a Whose

We use **whose** in relative clauses instead of **his/her/their**:

we saw some people –	their	car had broken down
→ We saw some people	whose	car had broken down.

We use **whose** mostly for people:

- A widow is a woman **whose husband is dead**. (her husband is dead)
- What's the name of the girl **whose car you borrowed**? (you borrowed **her** car)
- The other day I met someone **whose brother I went to school with**. (I went to school with **his** brother)

b Whom

Whom is possible instead of **who** (for people) when it is the *object* of the verb in the relative clause (like the sentences in Unit 85):

- The man **whom I wanted to see** was away on vacation. (I wanted to see **him**)

You can also use **whom** with a preposition (**to/from/with whom**, etc.):

- The woman **with whom he fell in love** left him after a few weeks. (he fell in love **with her**)

But we do not often use **whom**. In spoken English we normally prefer **who** or **that** (or you can leave them out – see Unit 85):

- The man (**who/that**) **I wanted to see** . . .
- The woman (**who/that**) **he fell in love with** . . .

For **whom** see also Units 87 and 88.

c Where

You can use **where** in a relative clause to talk about places:

the hotel – we stayed	there	– wasn't very clean
→ The hotel	where	we stayed wasn't very clean.

- I recently went back to **the town where I was born**. (or the town (that) I was born in)
- I would like to live in a **country where there is plenty of sunshine**.

d

We use **that** (or we leave it out) when we say **the day / the year / the time**, (etc.) **that something happened**:

- Do you still remember **the day (that) we first met**?
- **The last time (that) I saw her**, she looked very well.
- I haven't seen them since **the year (that) they got married**.

e

You can say **the reason why something happens** or **the reason that something happens**. You can also leave out **why** and **that**:

- **The reason (why/that) I'm calling you** is to invite you to a party.

UNIT 87

Relative clauses (4) – “extra information” clauses (1)

a Look again at these examples from Units 84 and 85:

- The man **who lives next door** is very friendly.
- Jerry works for a company **that makes typewriters**.
- Have you found the keys **(that) you lost**?

In these examples, the relative clauses tell us *which person or thing (or what kind of person or thing)* the speaker means:

“The man **who lives next door**” tells us *which* man.

“a company **that makes typewriters**” tells us *what kind* of company.

“the keys **(that) you lost**” tells us *which* keys.

But not all relative clauses are like this. For example:

- Tom’s father, **who is 78**, goes swimming every day.
- The house at the end of the street, **which has been empty for two years**, has just been sold.

In these examples the relative clauses (**who is 78** and **which has been empty for two years**) do *not* tell us which person or thing the speaker means. *We already know* which person or thing is meant: “**Tom’s father**” and “the house **at the end of the street**.” The relative clauses in these sentences give us *extra information* about the person or thing.

b In these “extra information” relative clauses you have to use **who** for people and **which** for things. You cannot use **that**, and you cannot leave out **who** or **which**.

When you write clauses like this, you have to put *commas* (,) at the beginning and at the end of the clause. Study these examples:

- Mr. Yates, **who has worked for the same company all his life**, is retiring next month.
- The strike at the car factory, **which lasted ten days**, is now over.

When the clause comes at the end of the sentence, you have to put a **comma** before the clause:

- Yesterday I met John, **who told me he was getting married**.
- She told me her address, **which I wrote down on a piece of paper**.

Remember that we use **who/which** instead of **he/she/it/they**:

- Last night we went to Ann’s party, **which** we enjoyed very much. (*not* which we enjoyed *it* very much)

c You can also use **whose**, **whom**, and **where** in relative clauses with “extra information”:

- Martin, **whose mother is Spanish**, speaks both Spanish and English fluently.
- Mr. Hill is going to Canada, **where his son has been living for five years**.
- My sister, **whom (or who) you once met**, is visiting us next week.

For more information about **whose**, **whom**, and **where** see Unit 86.

See also the next unit for “extra information” relative clauses.

UNIT 88

Relative clauses (5) – “extra information” clauses (2)

You should study Unit 87 before you study this unit.

a Prepositions + whom/which

In “extra information” clauses you can use a preposition before **whom** (for people) and **which** (for things). So you can say “**to whom** / **with whom** / **about which** / **for which**,” etc.:

- Mr. Carter, **to whom** I spoke last night, is very interested in our plan.
- Fortunately we had a map, **without which** we would have gotten lost.

But in spoken English we often keep the preposition after the verb in the relative clause.

When we do this, we normally use **who** (*not whom*):

- This is Mr. Carter, **who** I was telling you **about**.
- Yesterday we visited the National Museum, **which** I’d never been **to** before.

b All of/most of, etc. + whom/which Study these examples:

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|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>Jack has three brothers. All of them are married. (2 sentences)</p> <p>→ Jack has three brothers, all of whom are married. (1 sentence)</p> <p>Ann has a lot of books. She hasn’t read most of them. (2 sentences)</p> <p>→ Ann has a lot of books, most of which she hasn’t read. (1 sentence)</p> |
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You can also say:

<p>none of/many of/much of/(a) few of/some of any of/half of/each of/both of/neither of either of/one of/two of, etc.</p>	}	+ whom (people)
		+ which (things)

- He tried on three jackets, **none of which** fit him.
- They’ve got three cars, **two of which** they never use.
- Sue has a lot of friends, **many of whom** she went to school with.
- Two men, **neither of whom** I had seen before, came into my office.

c Which (not what) Study this example:

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|------------------------------|------|------------------------------------|
| Jim passed his driving test. | This | surprised everybody. (2 sentences) |
|------------------------------|------|------------------------------------|
- | | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------|
| Jim passed his driving test, | which | surprised everybody. (1 sentence) |
| | relative clause | |

In this example **which** = the fact that he passed his driving test. You *cannot* use **what** instead of **which** in sentences like this:

- She couldn’t come to the party, **which was a pity**. (*not . . . what was a pity*)
- The weather was very good, **which we hadn’t expected**. (*not . . . what we hadn’t expected*)

For **what** see Unit 85c.