

3 Examples:

Verb	Verb-s	Verb-ed	Verb-ing
look	looks	looked	looking
call	calls	called	calling
seem	seems	seemed	seeming
want	wants	wanted	wanting

4 [See SPELLING for details of how to spell regular verb forms.]

5 [See IRREGULAR VERBS and the A–Z list of IRREGULAR VERBS at the back of this book.]

relative clause

- ▶ A **relative clause** adds extra information about one of the nouns in the main clause.
- ▶ The **relative clause** goes immediately after the noun it relates to.
- ▶ The relative pronoun goes at the beginning of the **relative clause**.
- ▶ The relative pronouns are WHO (WHOM, WHOSE), WHICH and THAT.
- ▶ The relative pronoun can be omitted unless it is the subject of the **relative clause**. [See 2b below.]

1 The relative pronoun as subject of a relative clause.

1a Relative clauses about people:

WHO (OR THAT*) links two separate ideas about the same person or people. We join these two ideas by using **who** instead of the personal pronoun HE, SHE or THEY in the second clause.

E.g. *There's the doctor. She used to live next door.*
 → *There's the doctor **who** used to live next door.*
 (main clause) (relative clause)

* Some people think **who** is more correct. You can use **that**, but not to refer to a name (and not in non-defining clauses [see 4b below, and THAT 2]).

E.g. *I spoke to Mrs Pearson, **who** owns the bookstore.*

1b Relative clauses about things:

WHICH (OR THAT*) links two separate ideas about the same thing or things. We join these two ideas by using **which** or **that** instead of **it** or **they**.

E.g. *I'm writing about a camera. It doesn't work properly.*
 → *I'm writing about a camera **which** doesn't work properly.*
 (main clause) (relative clause)

* We use **that** commonly instead of **which**, especially in < speech >. But **which** is used in non-defining clauses [see 4b below].

2 The relative pronoun as object of a relative clause.

2a The relative pronoun goes at the beginning of the relative clause, even when it is the OBJECT of the clause.

E.g. (i) *There's the doctor. I met him yesterday.*
 → *There's the doctor **who** I met yesterday.*
 (ii) *I am writing about a camera. I bought it in your shop.*
 → *I am writing about a camera **which** I bought in your shop.*

* **Who**, **whom**, or **that** can all be used as a relative object pronoun referring to a person. **Whom** is < rare >, but is more < 'correct' > than **who** in < written English >.

2b Omitting the relative pronoun:

We often omit the relative pronoun when it is the OBJECT of the relative clause. (But don't omit it when it is the SUBJECT.) In these examples, the brackets (#) show where the pronoun is omitted.

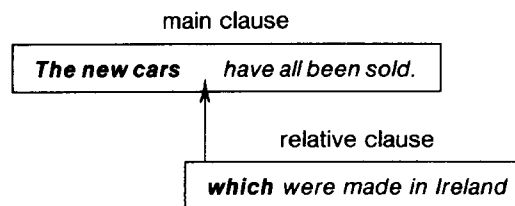
E.g. (i) *There's the doctor () I met yesterday.* (Compare 2a (i))
 (ii) *I am writing about a camera () I bought in your shop.*
 (Compare 2a (ii))

NOTE: This is sometimes called a ZERO RELATIVE PRONOUN. The CLAUSE is called a zero relative clause.

3 The position of the relative clause

A relative clause follows the NOUN it relates to, wherever the noun is in the SENTENCE. Here the relative clause is in the SUBJECT:

The new cars have all been sold. They were made in Ireland.
 → *The new cars **which** were made in Ireland have all been sold.*



4 The functions of relative clauses

Defining and non-defining* relative clauses have two functions:

4a Defining – to give essential information in order to identify what / who you are talking about.

E.g. *'The house has just been sold.'* *'Which house are you talking about?'*
'The house (which) I showed you last week (has just been sold).'

4b Non-defining – to give extra information, not essential for identifying what you are talking about.

E.g. *'Mrs Porter's house has just been sold.'*

Adding another piece of information:

'Mrs Porter's house, which has been for sale for two years, has just been sold.'

We usually separate non-defining clauses from the rest of the SENTENCE. We do this by COMMAS in < writing > and by separate INTONATION in < speech > .

NOTE: Don't use **that** at the beginning of a non-defining clause. Use **who (whom, whose)** or **which** instead.

* Defining clauses are sometimes called 'restrictive', and non-defining clauses are sometimes called 'non-restrictive'.

5 Whose + clause

Whose is the POSSESSIVE DETERMINER form of **who**. It usually refers to a person or people. It replaces **his, her, or their**.

E.g. *That woman is a well-known actress. You met her son.*

That woman whose son you met is a well-known actress.

NOTE: If you add commas here, they show that the relative clause is non-defining [see 4a above].
 E.g. *That woman, whose son you met, is a well-known actress.*

6 Prepositions in relative clauses

We can place the preposition in front of the relative pronoun. But more often we place the preposition at the end [see PREPOSITION].

E.g. *This is the knife with which he was killed.*
This is the knife (which) he was killed with. < more informal >

When the preposition is at the end, we can use **that** instead of **which**, or we can omit the relative pronoun.

E.g. *Sam is a student that* I once shared a room with.*
The bus we were waiting for never arrived.

* Do not use **that** after a preposition:
This is the school that my children go to.
 But not:
This is the school to that my children go.

7 Sentence relative clauses

Sentence relative clauses refer back to the whole clause or sentence, not just to one noun. They always go at the end of the clause or sentence.

E.g. *Tina admires the Prime Minister, which surprises me.* (= 'and this surprises me.')
He never admits his mistakes, which is extremely annoying. (= 'and this is extremely annoying.')

8 Relative adverbs

WHEN and WHERE can be 'relative adverbs': they link a relative clause to the main clause by a connection of TIME or PLACE.

E.g. *Do you remember the day (when) we first met?'* (defines which day)
One day I'm going back to the town where I spent my childhood. (defines which town)

NOTE: After the noun such as **time** or **place**, we can use **that** or ZERO THAT-CLAUSE, as well as **when** or **where**.

E.g. *She felt ill all the time { (that) / (when) } we were living in that cottage.*
I've lost my purse. I'm going back to look for it in the place { (that) / (where) } I was sitting.

reported speech is another name for INDIRECT SPEECH

requests

- ▶ If you want somebody to do something for you, you can use one of the forms in 1 below.
- ▶ Intonation is important when making **requests** and when replying to them.

1 Forms

Requests	Replies
(I) (Please**) { will / can / would / could } you + Verb ... (please**)? (II) I wonder if you { would / could } + Verb ... ? (III) { Can / Could } you (possibly) + Verb ... ? (IV) { Do / Would } you mind* + Verb-ing ... ?	{ Okay. / Certainly. / Of course. / All right. / Yes, ... } { No. / Not at all. }