

Relative clauses 4: extra information clauses (1)

A

There are two types of relative clause. In these examples, the relative clauses are underlined. Compare:

Type 1

- ☐ The woman who lives next door to me is a doctor.
- ☐ Grace works for a company that makes furniture.
- ☐ We stayed at the hotel (that) you recommended.

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

'The woman **who lives next door to me**' tells us *which* woman.

'A company **that makes furniture**' tells us *what kind* of company.

'The hotel **(that) you recommended**' tells us *which* hotel.

We do not use commas (,) with these clauses:

- ☐ We know a lot of people who live in London.

Type 2

- ☐ My brother Ben, who lives in Hong Kong, is an architect.
- ☐ Anna told me about her new job, which she's enjoying a lot.
- ☐ We stayed at the Park Hotel, which a friend of ours recommended.

In these examples, the relative clauses do not tell you which person or thing the speaker means. We already know which thing or person is meant: 'My brother Ben', 'Anna's new job' and 'the Park Hotel'.

The relative clauses in these sentences give us *extra information* about the person or thing.

We use commas (,) with these clauses:

- ☐ My brother Ben, who lives in Hong Kong, is an architect.

B

In both types of relative clause we use **who** for people and **which** for things. But:

Type 1

You can use **that**:

- ☐ Do you know anyone **who/that** speaks French and Italian?
- ☐ Grace works for a company **which/that** makes furniture.

You can leave out **who/which/that** when it is the object (see Unit 93):

- ☐ We stayed at **the hotel** (that/which) **you recommended**.
- ☐ This morning I met **somebody** (who/that) **I hadn't seen for ages**.

We do not often use **whom** in this type of clause (see Unit 94B).

Type 2

You cannot use **that**:

- ☐ John, **who** speaks French and Italian, works as a tour guide. (*not that speaks*)
- ☐ Anna told me about her new job, **which** she's enjoying a lot.

You cannot leave out **who** or **which**:

- ☐ We stayed at the Park Hotel, **which** a friend of ours recommended.
- ☐ This morning I met Chris, **who** I hadn't seen for ages.

You can use **whom** for people (when it is the object):

- ☐ This morning I met Chris, **whom** I hadn't seen for ages.

C

In both types of relative clause you can use **whose** and **where**:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> We helped some people whose car had broken down. <input type="checkbox"/> What's the name of the place where you went on holiday? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Lisa, whose car had broken down, was in a very bad mood. <input type="checkbox"/> Kate has just been to Sweden, where her daughter lives. |
|---|---|

Exercises

95.1 Make one sentence from two. Use the information in brackets to make a relative clause (Type 2).
You will need to use **who/whom/whose/which/where**.

- 1 Catherine is very friendly. (She lives next door to us.)
Catherine, who lives next door to us, is very friendly.
- 2 We stayed at the Park Hotel. (A friend of ours recommended this hotel.)
We stayed at the Park Hotel, which a friend of ours recommended.
- 3 We drove to the airport. (The airport was not far from the city.)
We drove to the airport,
- 4 Kate's husband is an airline pilot. (I have never met Kate's husband.)
Kate's pilot.
- 5 Lisa is away from home a lot. (Lisa's job involves a lot of travelling.)
Lisa
- 6 Paul and Emily have a daughter, Alice. (Alice has just started school.)
Paul and Emily have
- 7 The new stadium will hold 90,000 spectators. (The stadium will be finished next month.)
.....
- 8 My brother lives in Alaska. (Alaska is the largest state in the US.)
.....
- 9 Our teacher was very kind. (I have forgotten her name.)
.....
- 10 We enjoyed our visit to the museum. (We saw a lot of interesting things in the museum.)
.....

95.2 Read the information and complete the sentences. Use a relative clause of Type 1 or Type 2.
Use commas where necessary.

- 1 My brother is an architect. (He lives in Hong Kong.)
My brother, who lives in Hong Kong, is an architect.
- 2 The strike at the factory has now ended. (The strike began ten days ago.)
The strike at the factory
- 3 I was looking for a book this morning. (I've found it now.)
I've found
- 4 I've had my car for 15 years. (This car has never broken down.)
My car
- 5 A lot of people applied for the job. (Few of them had the necessary qualifications.)
Few of
- 6 Amy showed me a picture of her son. (Her son is a police officer.)
Amy showed me

95.3 Are these sentences OK? Correct them (and put in commas) where necessary. If the sentence is correct, write 'OK'.

- 1 Anna told me about her new job that she's enjoying very much.
Anna told me about her new job, which she's enjoying very much.
- 2 My office that is on the second floor is very small.
.....
- 3 The office that I'm using at the moment is very small.
.....
- 4 Sarah's father that used to be in the army now works for a TV company.
.....
- 5 The doctor that examined me couldn't find anything wrong.
.....
- 6 The sun that is one of millions of stars in the universe provides us with heat and light.
.....