

# Relative Clauses

**Relative Clauses** usually begin with **relative pronouns**

**who whom that which whose where when**

These clauses are used to provide more information about a noun in a sentence.

They act like *adjectives* by providing additional descriptive information directly after the noun.

A Labrador retriever is a type of dog *that I would consider buying.*

**Main Clause**

**Relative Clause** (provides more information about the subject – *a Labrador retriever* – in the main clause)

Look for the relative pronouns that signal the beginning of a relative clause and connect the two parts of the sentence (the main clause + relative pronoun + the description).

Relative Pronoun & Use	Examples
<p><b>Who</b></p> <p>Refers to people in the main clause. Use <b>who</b> if the people you are referring to are the subject of the relative clause.</p>	<p>People <b><i>who like coffee</i></b> should try the new café on Jarvis Street.</p>
<p><b>Which</b></p> <p>Refers to <u>things</u> in the main clause.</p>	<p>The key <b><i>which opens the secret passage</i></b> can be found under the rug. The Lion King is the only movie <b><i>which makes me cry every time I see it.</i></b></p>
<p><b>That</b></p> <p>Used in place of who/which in referring to people or things; informal.</p>	<p>Do you remember the people <b><i>that we met in New Zealand last year?</i></b> The car <b><i>that goes the fastest</i></b> will win the race.</p>
<p><b>Whom</b></p> <p>Refers to <u>people</u> in the main clause. Use <b>whom</b> if the people you are referring to appear as the <i>object</i> in your relative clause.</p>	<p>The applicant should be someone <b><i>whom we have never met before.</i></b> That's the girl <b><i>with whom I worked last summer.</i></b></p>

<p><b>(Quantifier/Superlative) + That</b></p> <p>We use <i>that</i> with quantifiers and superlatives at the beginning of a relative clause because it is more natural than using which/who that can refer to people or things.</p> <p>*Quantifiers include: <i>all, none, only, little, few</i>          *Superlatives include: <i>best, smallest, most kind</i></p>	<p>This is the <b>worst</b> mark <b>that I've ever received on a math test.</b></p> <p>The <b>only</b> pet <b>that I've ever had</b> was a fish.          Is that <b>all</b> the work <b>that you've completed?</b></p>
<p><b>Whose</b></p> <p>Relative possessive; the noun in the clause belongs to the person or thing that is being referenced. *Acts like <i>his, her, its, their</i></p>	<p>I was afraid of the dog <b>whose eyes were red.</b></p> <p>The man <b>whose truck would be used to transport my belongings</b> arrived at 1:00pm.</p>
<p><b>Preposition + which</b></p> <p>When the description includes a prepositional phrase in connection to the object, it is good practice to place the appropriate preposition before which.</p> <p><b>Note:</b> <i>when choosing a preposition make sure it is appropriate to the phrases you use .</i></p>	<p>She sang the song <i>the lyrics</i> <b>of which I've memorized.</b></p> <p>She sang the song <b>of which I've memorized the lyrics.</b></p> <p>=<i>I memorized the lyrics of the song.</i></p> <p>I opened the drawer <b>in which the supplies were kept.</b></p> <p>=<i>The supplies were kept in the drawer</i></p> <p>He made a suggestion <b>for which we were all grateful.</b></p> <p>=<i>We were grateful for the suggestion</i></p>
<p><b>Where</b></p> <p>When the noun is <u>a location</u> it refers to an activity or event that happened <u>at that location.</u></p>	<p>I went to a school <b>where they only spoke English.</b></p> <p>The river <b>where I found the gold</b> is just around the bend.</p>
<p><b>When</b></p> <p>When the noun refers to <u>time</u>; it describes an activity or event that happened <u>at the time in question.</u></p>	<p>There was a time <b>when I didn't know anything about grammar.</b></p> <p>The day <b>when I got my first puppy</b> was the happiest of my life.</p>