

An Intermediate Grammar Worksheet from Anna Grammar™

A **defining relative clause** helps us understand who or which thing is being talked about. The clause usually comes straight after the noun or pronoun it is defining or identifying.

The woman who lives in the apartment next to me has a baby alligator.

Two sentences have been combined here:

(First Sentence: *The woman lives in the apartment next to me.* **Second Sentence:** *The woman has a baby alligator.*)

The relative pronoun **who** is used to define or identify the woman we are talking about.

There are no commas at the beginning or ending of a defining relative clause.

1. Defining relative clauses about people: **Who** or **that** is used as the subject of the clause.

The man and the woman who live next-door to me had a huge argument yesterday.

My friend who is allergic to milk products had an allergic reaction last night.

Who, whom or **that** is used as the object of the clause. (Whom is not commonly used in everyday conversation because it is very formal.)

We can leave out the relative pronoun when it is the object of the clause.

The woman (who/that) I helped last week has given me a bunch of flowers.

Whose is used instead of his/her or their.

A turtle lover whose turtles get sick should immediately phone this number.

2. Defining relative clauses about things: **Which** or **that** is used as the subject of the clause.

This is the car that had the accident.

I'm going to buy a computer which really works this time!

That is more commonly used than **which**. Which is more formal.

When **which** or **that** is used as the object of the clause, we can omit the relative pronoun.

The car (that) I bought at the car fair has just broken down.

A **non-defining relative clause** is made using a relative pronoun which can **never** be left out.

The relative pronoun is separated from the noun with commas.

My friend, Joanna, who lives in Tokyo, is coming to visit me tomorrow.

Two sentences have been combined here:

(First Sentence: *My best friend, Joanna is coming to visit me.* **Second Sentence:** *She lives in Tokyo.*)

The relative pronoun **who** is used to add the extra information about Joanna (she lives in Tokyo.)

1. Non-defining relative clauses about people: **Who** is used to refer to people. **That** can't be used instead of who.

I have an appointment with Dr. Black, who is a plant lover like me.

Annie, who really likes cooking, made this cake.

When **who/whom** is the object of the non-defining clause, it could look like this:

Annie, who everyone thinks is a great cook, made this cake. (Whom is not used in everyday conversation because it is very formal.)

Whose is used instead of his/her or their.

Annie, whose phone was broken, borrowed my mobile phone.

2. Non-defining relative clauses about things: **Which** is used to refer to things. Here is an example where it is used as the subject of the relative clause.

My car, which I bought in London, is smooth and comfortable. NOT ~~My car, that I bought in London, is smooth and comfortable.~~

That can't be used instead of which in a non-defining clause.

Here is an example where **which** is used as the object of the relative clause.

This book, which I bought this morning, is about birds.

Whose is used instead of his/her or their.

My parents, whose car was stolen last week, are traveling around Italy.



Exercise 1

Combine the sentences with a relative clause. Use the word prompt as the beginning of the sentence.

1. The man lives next to me. He plays the bagpipes. **Answer:** *The man...*
2. The family lives above me. They are very friendly. **Answer:** *The family...*
3. The man lives below me. He keeps a baby alligator. **Answer:** *The man...*
4. The woman's house is painted blue. She is moving to Australia. **Answer:** *The woman...*

Combine the sentences below with a relative clause. Use the word prompt as the beginning of the sentence. (If the relative pronoun can be left out, then omit it.)

5. I just met a man at the bus-stop. He is a turtle-lover. **Answer:** *The man...*
6. I talked to the man about turtles. He is selling his turtles soon. **Answer:** *The man...*
7. I saw a man in the pet shop today. He was buying worms for his fish. **Answer:** *The man...*
8. We met a young girl with a tank. She will be coming to our Aquarium group on Monday night. **Answer:** *The girl...*

Exercise 2

Fill in the gaps with **who** or **whose**.

My mother, 1. favorite hobby is gardening, is going to the Chelsea Flower Show this year. She is catching the train to London with her friend, Nina Curry, 2. also likes flowers. Nina's brother Andrew, 3. has been overseas with his family for the last two years, will meet them and go to the Show with them. His wife, 4. is allergic to flowers, won't go to the Show. Amy, their 16-year-old daughter, 5. worst nightmare would be to go to the Show because it would be very uncool, will also not go with them.



Answer Key:

Exercise 1: Answers

1. The man who lives next to me plays the bagpipes.
2. A family who lives above me are very friendly.
3. The man who lives below me keeps a baby alligator.
4. The woman whose house is painted blue is moving to Australia.
5. The man I just met at the bus-stop is a turtle-lover.
6. The man I talked to about turtles is selling his turtles soon.
7. The man I saw in the pet shop today was buying worms for his fish.
8. The girl we met with a tank will be coming to our Aquarium group on Monday night.

Exercise 2: Answers

1. whose, 2. who, 3. who, 4. who, 5. whose.