

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 is a doctor.
- ☐ Barbara works for a company that makes furniture.
- ☐ We stayed at the hotel (that) you recommended.

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

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

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

'The hotel (that) Ann 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 Rob, who lives in Australia, is a doctor.
- ☐ Colin told me about his new job, which he's enjoying very much.
- ☐ 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 Rob', 'Colin'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 Rob, who lives in London, is a doctor.

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?
- ☐ Barbara 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 (not that) speaks French and Italian, works as a tourist guide.
- ☐ Colin told me about his new job, which (not that) he's enjoying very much.

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.

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

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

Unit 95

95.1 Make one sentence from two. Use the sentence in brackets to make a relative clause (Type 2).

You will need to use who(m)/whose/which/where.

- 1 Catherine is very friendly. (She lives next door.)
Catherine, who lives next door, is very friendly.
- 2 We stayed at the Park Hotel. (A friend of ours had recommended it.)
We stayed at the Park Hotel, which a friend of ours had recommended.
- 3 We often go to visit our friends in Bristol. (It is not very far away.)
- 4 I went to see the doctor. (He told me to rest for a few days.)
- 5 John is one of my closest friends. (I have known him for a very long time.)
John
- 6 Sheila is away from home a lot. (Her job involves a lot of travelling.)
- 7 The new stadium will be opened next month. (It can hold 90,000 people.)
- 8 Glasgow is the largest city in Scotland. (My brother lives there.)
- 9 A friend of mine helped me to get a job. (His father is the manager of a company.)

95.2 Read the information and complete each sentence. Use a relative clause of Type 1 or Type 2.

Use commas where necessary.

- 1 There's a woman living next door to me. She's a doctor.
The woman who lives next door to me is a doctor.
- 2 I've got a brother called Rob. He lives in Australia. He's a doctor.
My brother Rob who lives in Australia, is a doctor.
- 3 There was a strike at the car factory. It began ten days ago. It is now over.
The strike at the car factory
- 4 I was looking for a book this morning. I've found it now.
I've found
- 5 London was once the largest city in the world, but the population is now falling.
The population of London
- 6 A job was advertised. A lot of people applied for it. Few of them had the necessary qualifications.
Few of
- 7 Amy has a son. She showed me a photograph of him. He's a policeman.
Amy showed me

95.3 Correct the sentences that are wrong and put in commas where necessary. If the sentence is correct, write 'OK'.

- 1 Colin told me about his new job that he's enjoying very much.
Colin told me about his new job, which he's enjoying very much.
- 2 My office that is on the second floor is very small.
- 3 The office I'm using at the moment is very small.
- 4 Ben's father that used to be a teacher 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.