

Grammar Lesson 6 - Relative Clauses

Relative Clause: A subordinate clause that modifies a noun.

Examples:

- The memo was sent to all instructors who were teaching Spanish 101.
- The book which I borrowed from the library last semester is due this week.

There are two types of relative clauses; **non-restrictive** and **restrictive**.

1 Restrictive

1. When the noun being modified is a **person and subject** of the clause, use **who**.
 - The man who robbed the bank was arrested the next day.
2. If the preceding word is *all, everyone, no one, nobody, those* use **that**.
 - Those who/that took a class online said they would take an online class again.
3. When the noun being modified is a **person and object** of the clause, use **who, that, whom** or the relative pronoun may be omitted, **whom is most formal**.
 - The interns whom this company employs come from a number of Canadian schools.
4. When the noun modified is a **thing and subject** of that clause, which or that can be used. The use of which is more formal.
 - This is the package that/which I have been waiting for.
5. When the noun being modified is a **thing and object** of the clause, use **which, that, whom** or the relative pronoun may be omitted.
 - The car which I rented last week broke down.
 - This is the best book **that** I have ever read.
 - This is the best book I have ever read.

2 Non-Restrictive

1. When the noun being modified is a **person and subject** of the clause, use **who**.
 - Anne, who is an outstanding researcher, presented her paper on the health effects of air pollution at the Conference on Global Warming.
2. When the noun modified is a **person and object** of the clause, use **whom**.
(Whom is more formal, however in spoken English, who is frequently possible.)
 - Anne, whom everyone respects, was invited to speak at a conference on the health effects of air pollution.
3. When the noun modified is a **thing and either an subject, object or objects** , use **which**.
 - The book, which took years to write, was an instant hit.
 - For my birthday, she gave me a book, which she picked out herself.

Subject-Verb Agreement, Effective Writing Practice Tutorial, Northern Illinois University.