

● Relative clauses / participles

Relative clauses

Relative clauses give us extra information about something/someone or identify which particular thing/person we are talking about. They are often introduced by the following words.

Use	Example
<i>which</i> (for things and animals)	<i>Did you see the film which was on TV last night?</i>
<i>who</i> (for people, and animals when we want to give them a personality)	<i>Tom Davies, who is appearing in concert in Reading this week, is with me in the studio.</i>
<i>when</i> (for times)	<i>Do you remember the day when we met?</i>
<i>where</i> (for places)	<i>This is the place where they filmed Citizen Kane.</i>
<i>why</i> (for reasons)	<i>That's the reason why he's so popular.</i>
<i>whom</i> (for people as the object of the relative clause)	<i>Is that the man whom we saw at the cinema yesterday?</i>
<i>whose</i> (for possession)	<i>My next guest on the show is John Travolta, whose career goes back to the early seventies.</i>

Watch out!

- When the relative pronoun (*who*, *which*, etc) is the subject of the relative clause, you do **not** need another subject.
 - ✓ *I admire Jude Law, **who** always works hard on his films.*
 - ✗ *I admire Jude Law, **who he** always works hard on his films.*
- *Whom* is quite formal. It is natural in informal English to use *who* instead of *whom*, even when it is the object of the relative clause. After a preposition, however, we always use *whom*. Informally, we usually put the preposition at the end of the clause and use *who*.
 - ✓ *Is that the man **who** we saw at the cinema yesterday?*
 - ✓ *Charlie Chaplin was a comic genius **to whom** all comedians owe a great deal.*
 - ✓ *Charlie Chaplin was a comic genius **who** all comedians owe a great deal **to**.*
- *Where* can be replaced by a preposition + *which*. Less formally, we can put the preposition at the end of the clause.
 - ✓ *The theatre **where / in which** I first acted is somewhere around here.*
 - ✓ *The theatre **which** I first acted **in** is somewhere around here.*
- We can do the same thing with *when*.
 - ✓ *Do you know the year **when / in which** the first western was made?*
 - ✓ *Do you know the year **which** the first western was made **in**?*

Non-defining relative clauses

Non-defining relative clauses simply give us more information about something/someone. The sentence makes complete sense without the relative clause.

Use	Example
To give extra information about something/someone	<i>Ray Watson, who starred in Bandits, is considering making a film based on the life of Einstein.</i>

Watch out!

- Non-defining relative clauses are separated from the rest of the sentence by commas.
 - ✓ *Megamonsters, **which** was filmed in New York, is a very disappointing film.*
- We cannot leave out the word which introduces the relative clause and we cannot use the word *that* instead.
 - ✗ *Megamonsters, **was** filmed in New York, is a very disappointing film.*
 - ✗ *Megamonsters, **that** was filmed in New York, is a very disappointing film.*
- *Which* can refer back to the whole of the sentence.
 - ✓ *We finally got tickets for the concert, **which** was very lucky.*
(It doesn't mean the concert was lucky. It means getting tickets for the concert was lucky.)

Defining relative clauses

Defining relative clauses tell us which one of a group of things/people we are talking about. The sentence doesn't usually make complete sense without the relative clause.

Use	Example
To tell us which one of a group of things/people we are talking about	<i>The book which I've read was the best of all.</i> <i>The one who is wearing a blue shirt is Justin Timberlake, isn't it?</i>

Watch out!

- Defining relative clauses are not separated from the rest of the sentence by commas.
✓ *This is the DVD **which** I told you about the other day.*
- We can also use *that* to introduce the relative clause.
✓ *This is the DVD **that** I told you about the other day.*
- We can often leave out the word which introduces the relative clause when it is the object of the clause.
✓ *This is the DVD I told you about the other day.*
- Notice that we do not need a preposition when we use *where* or *when*.
✓ *The theatre **where** I first acted is somewhere around here.*
~~✗ *The theatre **where** I first acted **in** is somewhere around here.*~~
✓ *Do you know the year **when** the first western was made?*
~~✗ *Do you know the year **when** the first western was made **in**?*~~

Participles

Present participles end in *-ing*.

Past participles usually end in *-ed*, although there are many irregular verbs.

Perfect participles are formed using *having* + past participle.

Use	Example
To follow prepositions and conjunctions (present and perfect participles)	<i>By appearing in that cigarette advert, he damaged his acting career.</i> <i>After playing / having played video games all morning, I was really tired.</i>
To explain the reason for something (present and perfect participles)	<i>Being quite good looking, Ralph decided to make a career as a model.</i> <i>Having seen the film before, I knew what was going to happen.</i>
To talk about actions happening at the same time (present participles)	<i>Waiting for the show to begin, I felt really nervous.</i>
To replace some relative clauses (present and past participles)	<i>Imagine being the person directing a big budget film! (= Imagine being the person who is directing a big budget film!)</i> <i>The person chosen for the part will be contacted by phone. (= The person who is chosen for the part will be contacted by phone.)</i>
To talk about past actions happening in sequence (perfect participles)	<i>Having finished my homework, I decided to go to the cinema.</i>
As an alternative passive form (past participles)	<i>Made to wait, the actor began to get very annoyed.</i>

Watch out!

- You have to be careful that the participle and the rest of the sentence both refer to the same subject.
✓ *Watching TV, I saw a news report about Hollywood.*
~~✗ *Watching TV, a news report came on about Hollywood.*~~

A Circle the correct word.

- The minister, **which** / **who** was appointed just last week, made no comment on the situation.
- Isn't that the spot **which** / **where** the accident happened last night?
- The human brain, **which** / **who** weighs about 1400 grammes, is ten times the size of a baboon's.
- There are several reasons **which** / **why** I don't want to see Michael tonight.
- This is the office **which** / **where** I work.
- The new girl in our class, **who's** / **whose** name is Alexandra, seems really nice.
- The *Titanic*, **which** / **that** people said was unsinkable, sank on her maiden voyage.
- All the people to **who** / **whom** the e-mail was sent replied.
- April 1st, **which** / **when** we play tricks on people, is known as April Fools' Day.
- Harry Hill, **who** / **whose** new series starts next week, is one of my favourite comedians.
- A very popular breed of dog is the German Shepherd, **which** / **who** is often used as a guard dog.
- Blackpool Tower, **which** / **that** was modelled on the Eiffel Tower, is a very well-known landmark.

B If a word in bold is correct, put a tick (✓). If it is incorrect, rewrite it correctly.

- November 5th was the day **which** Guy Fawkes tried to blow up Parliament.
- There were none of my favourite biscuits left when I had a cup of tea, **that** was really annoying.
- I've just got a new webcam **that** takes really clear pictures.
- The Godfather* was made by Francis Ford Copolla, **who's** daughter is also a film director.
- Can you think of any reason **which** Cathy should be angry with me?
- Here's a photo of the hotel **where** we stayed in when we were in Beijing.
- How do you think the first man **whom** walked on the moon felt?
- This is the first occasion on **which** the leaders of these two countries have met.
- He is a person for **who** very few people feel much sympathy.
- The moment **which** the hero suddenly appears from behind a tree is the best moment in the whole film.
- I met a man **which** had a dog with only three legs.
- My new school, **who** I moved to about a month ago, seems like quite a friendly place.

C Rewrite as one sentence using a relative clause.

- My friend, Simon, plays the guitar. He has just released a CD.
My friend, Simon, who has just released a CD, plays the guitar.
- Prince Charles is heir to the throne of England. His wife was Princess Diana.
.....
- Microsoft has a lot of power in the world of computers. That annoys some people.
.....
- The euro replaced a number of national currencies. It was introduced in January 2002.
.....

- 5 *Friends* ran for ten years. It is one of my favourite series.
.....
- 6 Venus is a very hot place. It is much closer to the Sun than the Earth is.
.....
- 7 Cricket is popular in many countries around the world. It is played between two teams of eleven.
.....
- 8 Parts of Buckingham Palace are open to the public. It is where the queen lives.
.....
- 9 The greyhound is the fastest dog. It can reach speeds of over 65 kilometres an hour.
.....
- 10 *1984* was written by George Orwell. His real name was Eric Blair.
.....

D Write one word in each gap. Do not write *that* and do not leave any gaps blank.

Find me a show that works

by our TV reviewer, Jeremy Platt

I'm sure there was a reason (1) I became a TV reviewer. Maybe it was my love of classic shows (2) kept me entertained as a child. Or maybe it was the presenters (3) seemed to promise an exciting world of glamour and showbiz. To be honest, I've watched so many shows lately (4) have bored me to tears that I've forgotten. Take *Kid Swap*, for example, the new show (5) Channel 7 hopes will revive their viewing figures. The show takes kids (6) parents have had enough and swaps them with kids from other families for two weeks. The problem with this show is that I'm just not sure at (7) it's aimed – parents or teenagers. Parents (8) watch this show will find it childish, particularly at the moment (9) one of the teenagers does nothing but complain. Teenage viewers (10) watch more than the first five minutes will soon get bored of the parents, (11) blame anybody but themselves for the situation. This is definitely one idea (12) should be put exactly where it belongs – in the bin!

E Tick (✓) the gaps in Exercise D which could be completed using *that*. Put a cross (x) where *that* could not be used.

- | | | | |
|---------|---------|---------|----------|
| 1 | 4 | 7 | 10 |
| 2 | 5 | 8 | 11 |
| 3 | 6 | 9 | 12 |

F Choose the correct answer.

- 1 'Who's that over there?'
'Oh, it's our new teacher, just started work today.'
A that C which he
B who he D who
- 2 'Which CD did you get Marcus in the end?'
'I got him the one said he really wanted to hear.'
A that C which
B who he D which he
- 3 'Who did you send a Valentine's card to?'
'I'm not telling you, but it was someone name begins with "B".'
A which C whose
B who her D whose her
- 4 'Have you seen Jason Green's latest film?'
'Is that the one in joins the FBI?'
A which he C whom he
B that he D which
- 5 'Why do you like Tania so much?'
'Well, she's one of the few people to I can really talk.'
A which C that
B whom D who
- 6 'Why don't we go to Lionel's for dinner tonight?'
'Is that the new restaurant has just opened on the other side of town?'
A which C where
B that it D which it
- 7 'Could you lend me some money?'
'I'd like you to give me one good reason I should.'
A that C which
B why D who
- 8 'What do you want to do this summer?'
'I think we should go somewhere has plenty of sun and sand.'
A who C when
B where D that

G Circle the words in bold which are *not* necessary.

The number of options (1) **that** are available to us with (2) **which** to fill our leisure time is increasing all the time. While previous generations, (3) **who** lived before the electronic age, had musical instruments and card games (4) **that** they played to pass the time, we have PlayStations, computers, televisions and stereos. Although parents (5) **whose** teenagers spend a lot of time on these activities might worry about the effect (6) **which** it is having on them, for most of us they provide harmless fun, (7) **which** is becoming more important as life becomes more stressful. The television programmes (8) **which** we watch and the computer games (9) **that** we play all entertain us and, although there will always be people to (10) **whom** they seem a complete waste of time, the effect (11) **that** they have on society cannot be ignored. Entertainment is something (12) **which** we all need and, as long as we're willing to pay, there will always be someone (13) **who** is willing to provide it.

H Circle the correct word or phrase.

- 1 Before **meeting** / **met** Harriet, I never knew what real love was.
- 2 I'm sure that after **passing** / **passed** your exam, you'll feel a lot better.
- 3 Having **finishing** / **finished** the letter, Peter printed it out.
- 4 **Looking** / **Looked** through the window, I saw a strange man at the door.
- 5 I cooked dinner and, **doing** / **having done** that, I sat down to watch TV.
- 6 **Hearing** / **Heard** a noise outside, Janice went to investigate.
- 7 **Having lost** / **Losing** my notes, I couldn't revise properly for the test.
- 8 **Having been** / **Being** quite intelligent, Matt hopes to get into a good university.
- 9 **Having missed** / **Missing** the start of the film, I decided not to bother watching the rest of it.
- 10 After **making** / **made** her bed, Cherie had a shower.

I Complete the sentences so that the meaning remains the same.

- 1 I suddenly remembered where I'd left my keys when I was waiting for the bus.
Waiting
- 2 I slipped because I was trying to run in the rain.
Trying
- 3 I felt quite sorry for Tim when I saw him cry.
Seeing
- 4 John was depressed because he knew he was going to fail the exam.
Knowing
- 5 The reason I'm quite good at basketball is that I'm quite tall.
Being
- 6 Georgia didn't know any Japanese so she used a phrase book when she was there.
Not
- 7 Ed can afford three holidays abroad each year because he has a lot of money.
Having
- 8 Maria began to worry when she realised she was lost.
Realising

J Tick (✓) the correct sentences. If a sentence is incorrect, rewrite it correctly.

- 1 Looking through the window, a plane was passing overhead.
.....
- 2 Realising that it was late, I ran all the way home.
.....
- 3 Having examined me, I was given a prescription by the doctor.
.....
- 4 Turning on the television, the newsreader said there had been an explosion.
.....
- 5 Dropping the shopping bags on the kitchen floor, Mrs Moorcroft sighed and sat down heavily.
.....
- 6 Having practised the piano, I decided to call one of my friends.
.....

K If a line is correct, put a tick (✓) next to the number. If there is an extra word in a line, write it next to the number.

- 1 'Hello, viewers, and welcome to *Easy Money*, the game show who you
- 2 voted the best on TV! Now, remember yesterday when our current champion,
- 3 Pat Barber, having been won ten thousand euros, decided to carry on? Well,
- 4 she's here tonight and she's going for the star prize, which it is a brand new
- 5 sports car! That's right. Having got her this far, if Pat can answer three more
- 6 questions correctly, then she could be driving home in this car, ladies and
- 7 gentlemen. Having not seen the programme before, you will know just how
- 8 difficult which it can be. I know Pat's a little nervous, but I'm sure she'll be
- 9 fine and there's one person for whom tonight is very special and that's Pat's
- 10 husband, Frank, who he is sitting in the audience. So, let's play *Easy Money*!