

COMPLEX SENTENCES

RELATIVE CLAUSES

A CLAUSE IS A PART OF A SENTENCE. A RELATIVE CLAUSE TELLS US WHICH PERSON OR THING THE SPEAKER MEANS.

- The woman **who** lives next door ... (“who lives next door” tells us which woman)
- People **who** live in the country... (“who live in the country” tells us what kind of people)

WHO	WHICH	THAT
Is used when we are talking about PEOPLE e.g. An architect is someone who designs buildings.	Is used when we are talking about OBJECTS or THINGS e.g. That's the handbag which was stolen.	Is used when we are talking about both people and objects e.g. That's the woman that identified the thief. That's the handbag that was stolen.

RELATIVE ADVERBS

- **Where** to refer to place. It can be replaced by **which/that** +preposition.

e.g. The hotel **where** we stayed was fantastic.

The hotel (**which/that**) we stayed at was fantastic.

- **When** to refer to time. It can be replaced by **that** or **can be omitted**.

e.g. 1992 was the year (**when/that**) they got married.

- **Why** to give reason, usually after the word reason. It can be replaced by **that** or **can be omitted**.

e.g. Peter's behaviour was the reason (**when/that**) she was angry.

SUBJECT OR OBJECT OF THE RELATIVE CLAUSE

The relative pronoun (**WHO, WHICH, THAT**) in the relative clause can be:

1) ***The subject of the clause***

It's the T-shirt **which** has a rip.

↓
The T-shirt has a rip.

2) ***The object of the clause*** (with a noun or pronoun following it)

That's the man **who** I saw.

↓
I saw that man.

Who/which/that can be omitted when it's *the object of the clause*

e.g. He's the boy (who/whom/that) I told you about.

This is the car (who/whom/that) my dad gave me.

Whose is never omitted.

That's the man **whose** dog bit me.

DEFINING AND NON-DEFINING RELATIVE CLAUSES

(BOTH GIVE EXTRA INFORMATION ABOUT THE NOUN IN THE MAIN CLAUSE)

× *Defining relative clause*

A thief who has stolen 100 bags has finally been arrested.

- adds essential information;
- can use **that** instead of **who** and **which**;
- can omit the object relative pronoun;
- doesn't use commas;

× *Non-defining relative clause*

The witness, who police have not named, was also a victim of Slack.

- doesn't add essential information;
- can't use **that** instead of **who** and **which**;
- can't omit the object relative pronoun;
- uses commas;