

English V

Relative Pronouns and Clauses

MENG311 - 2021

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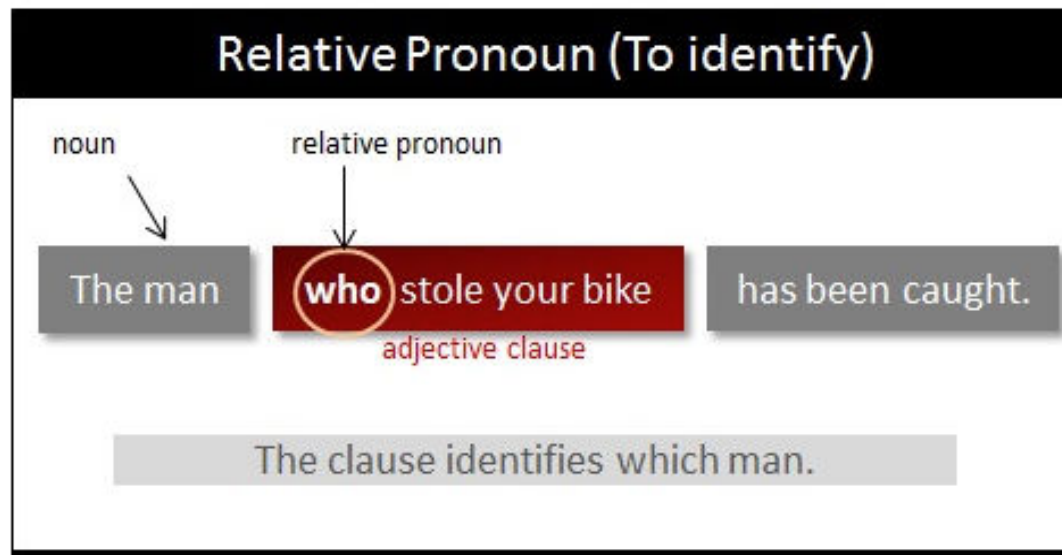
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Lesson 7

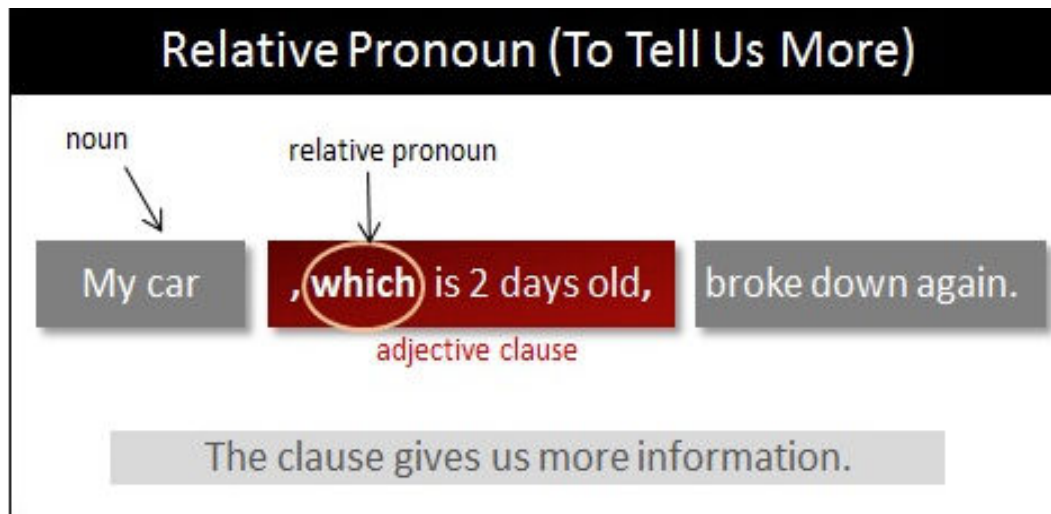
Relative Pronouns

- A relative pronoun is used to introduce an adjective clause. (An adjective clause follows a noun to identify it or tell us more about it.)
- These are commonly called relative clauses. The relative pronoun we use depends on what we are referring to and the type of relative clause.

Relative Pronouns



Relative Pronouns



Relative Pronouns

- **Who** – people
- **Which** – animals and things
- **That** – people, animals and things
- **Whose** – possessive meaning
- **Whom** – Used instead of *who* if it is the object in sentence

Relative Adjectives

In some situations, we may use **where**, **when** or **why** to introduce *defining* relative clauses.

- **Where** – places
- **When** – times
- **Why** – reasons
- **What** – non-living things

Relative Clauses

To understand the distinctions between *that* and *which*, it is necessary to understand **defining** (restrictive) and **non-defining** (non-restrictive) clauses.

Relative Clauses

Defining clauses (Restrictive clauses)

A defining (restrictive) clause is one that is essential to the sense of the sentence.

- My house *that has a blue door* needs painting.

Here the blue door is a defining characteristic, it helps to distinguish that house from my other houses.

Defining clauses or phrases are not separated with commas. A restrictive clause or phrase is essential to the meaning of the sentence; it defines the word it modifies by “restricting” its meaning. Eliminating a restrictive element from a sentence changes its meaning.

Relative Clauses

Non-defining clauses (Non-restrictive clauses)

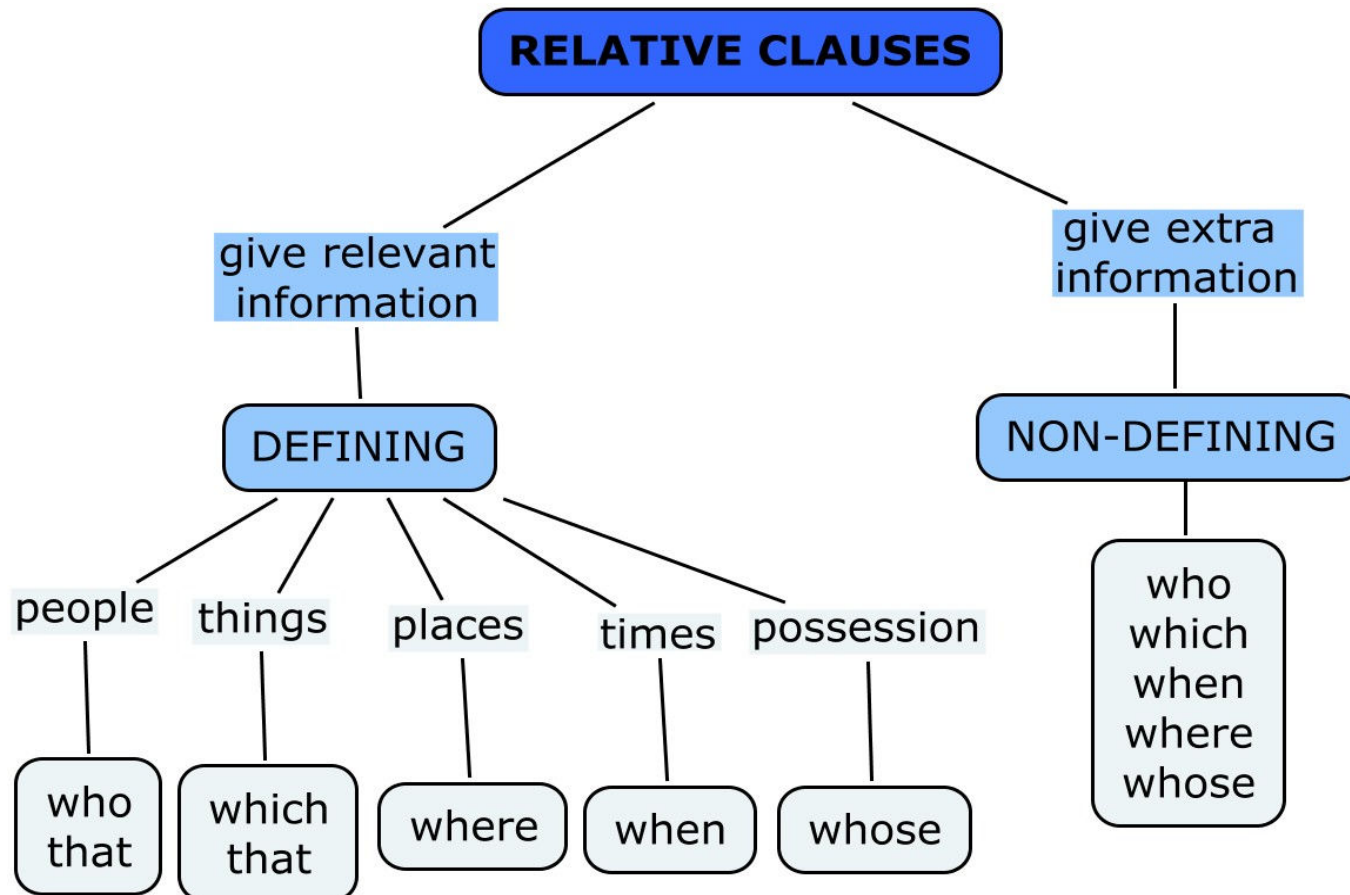
A non-defining (non-restrictive) clause is one that can be regarded as “giving more information”.

- My house, *which has a blue door*, needs painting.

The italicized red words are effectively an aside and can be deleted. The real point of the sentence is that the house needs painting; the blue door is incidental.

Use commas to set off non-defining elements, which contribute to, but do not determine, the meaning of the sentence. These elements may be clauses or phrases.

Relative Clauses



Relative Clauses

No Relative Pronoun (Contact clauses)

Sometimes the relative pronoun may be left out, when it is the object of the verb. We only do this in defining relative clauses.

- This is the boy *who* I met at the party yesterday.

Who is *NOT* the subject, and can be left out.

- This is the boy I met at the party yesterday.

Relative Clauses

No Relative Pronoun (Contact clauses)

If there is a verb after the relative pronoun ***who/which/that***, do not leave out the relative pronoun.

- This is the boy ***who*** was at the party yesterday.

We do not leave out the relative pronoun when it is the subject of the verb, or in non-defining relative clauses.

Relative Clauses

Relative Pronouns: *When, Where* and *Why*

We often use ***where, when*** or ***why*** to introduce defining relative clauses instead of *at which, on which* or *for which*.

Where – places

- I know a restaurant ***where*** the food is excellent.

When – times

- There is not a day ***when*** I don't feel rushed.

Why – reasons

- Do you know ***why*** the shop is closed today?