



Highlight English

Just for you!

CLASS 3.26 What is a relative clause?

- Relative clauses.
- Relative pronouns.



What is a relative clause?

- We can use relative clauses to join two English sentences, or to give more information about something.

- I bought a new car. It is very fast. = *I bought a new car that is very fast.*
- She lives in New York. She likes living in New York. = *She lives in New York, which she likes.*



Subject relative clauses.

- First, let's consider when the relative pronoun is the subject of a defining relative clause. We can use 'who', 'which' or 'that'. We use 'who' for people and 'which' for things. We can use 'that' for people or things



- I'm looking for a secretary [**who** | | **that**] can use a computer well.

Subject relative clauses.



- The relative clause can come after the subject or the object of the sentence. We can't drop the relative pronoun.

(clause after the object of the sentence)

I sent a package [which / | | that] arrived three weeks later.

Listen to the next audio, complete the phrases.

- The relative clause can come after the subject or the object of the sentence.
We can't drop the relative pronoun.

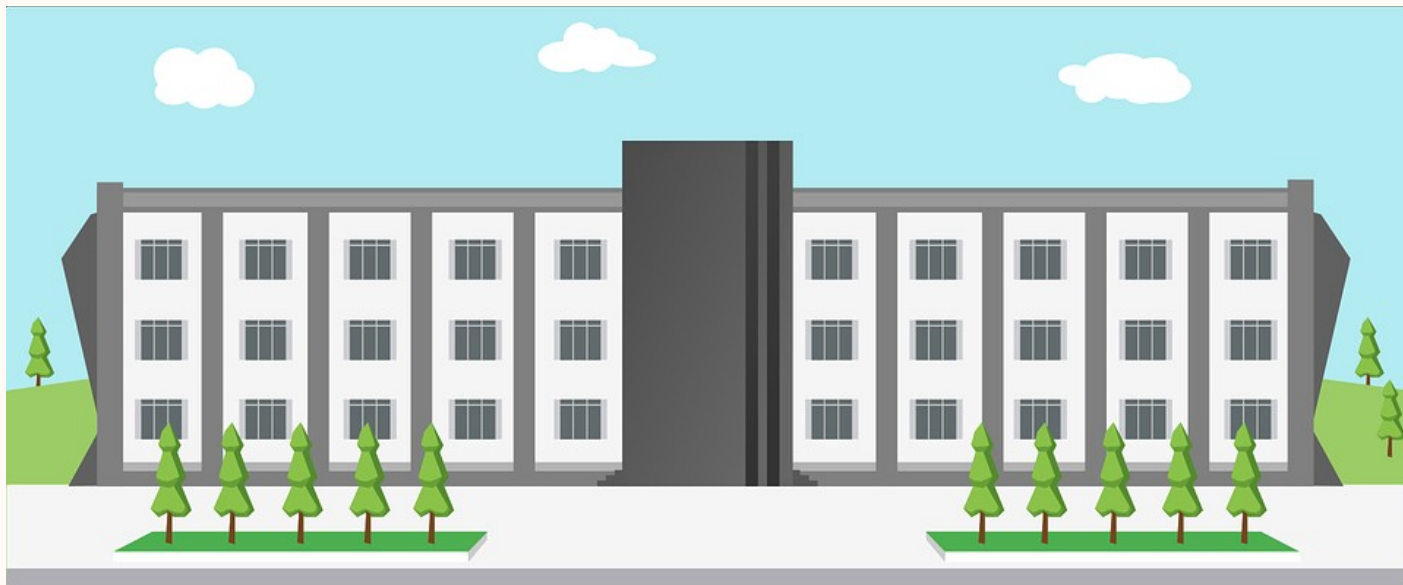
(clause after the subject of the sentence)

The people [who | | that] live on Latin-America are very friendly.



Object relative clauses.

- Next, let's talk about when the relative pronoun is the object of the clause. In this case we can drop the relative pronoun if we want to. Again, the clause can come after the subject or the object of the sentence



- John met a woman [**who** | | **that**] I had been to school with.

Object relative clauses.



- In this case we can drop the relative pronoun if we want to.

(clause after the subject of the sentence)

The bike [which | that] I liked the most was stolen.

Listen to the next audio, complete the phrases.

- The relative clause can come after the subject or the object of the sentence.
We can't drop the relative pronoun.

(Clause after the *object*)

She loved *the movie* [which | | that] we watched.



Object relative clauses.

- Notice the importance of the main clause, without this information, the secondary clause usually makes no sense. Secondary clauses give more information about something.



- John met a woman ----- This idea makes sense
- Who I had been to school with. ----- It doesn't make sense || we need the main clause

Complete the next relative clauses and answer *Are they object or subject relative clauses?*

- She has a son who / that is a doctor.
- The house which / that belongs to Julie is in London
- The university (which / that) she likes is famous
- We bought a house which / that is 200 years old.
- We went to the village (which / that) Lucy recommended.
- The man who / that phoned is my brother.

Complete the next relative clauses and answer *Are they object or subject relative clauses?*

- John met a woman (who / that) I had been to school with.
- The computer which / that costs \$1 200 is over there.
- The people who / that live on the island are very nice.
- The woman (who / that) my brother loves is from Mexico.
- The police arrested a man (who / that) Jill worked with.
- The doctor (who / that) my grandmother liked lives in New York.