

# Relative clauses

Professional Communication – 2TIN

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## Relative clauses



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- Arthur Canon Doyle is the writer **who** invented Sherlock Holmes.
- Do you have a phone **which** takes photos?

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## Relative clauses: pronouns

- The relative pronoun can be the **subject or object in the relative clause**.

Pronoun = subject	Pronoun = object
Arthur Conan Doyle was the writer who invented Sherlock Holmes.	"The Hound of the Baskervilles" is a novel which he wrote in 1901.
There's the dog that bit my brother!	The film that we saw last week was awful.

The relative pronoun can be omitted when it is the object of the relative clause, but not when it is the subject.

- "The Hound of the Baskervilles" is a novel ~~which~~ he wrote in 1901.
- The film we saw last week was awful.

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## Relative clauses

- When, where, why
  - **When** introduces a relative clause about times, days, years, etc
    - *There was a storm on the day **when** my sister got married.*
  - **Where** introduces a relative clause about places
    - *Do you know any shops **where** you can get designer jeans?*
  - **Why** introduces a relative clause about reason
    - *That's the reason **why** I'm late.*

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## Relative clauses

- ❖ We sometimes form relative clauses using verbs with prepositions, such as apply for.

	Informal	Formal
I applied for that job.	That's the job which I applied for	Below are the details of the job for which you applied.
I work with Steve.	Steve's the man who I work with	It's important to get on with the people with whom you work.

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## Relative clauses

- The students **who** *have studied well* will pass the test.
- I pity the fool **who** *messes with the A-team*.
  - Defining relative clause
  - Introduced by a **relative pronoun**
  - Narrows down the subject (or object)
- The students, **who** *have studied well*, will pass the test.
- "I pity the fool, **who** *messes with the A-team*."
  - Non-defining relative clause
  - Introduced by a **relative pronoun**
  - Separated from the rest of the sentence by commas



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## Relative clauses

- Difference between non-defining and defining relative clauses
  - Angela Green is the woman who lives next door. = **defining relative clause**
  - Angela Green is the woman. (Which woman?)
  - Angela Green, who won the nobel prize for being awesome in 2008, lives next door. = **non-defining relative clause**
- Non-defining clause gives us extra information about the subject or object of the main clause

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## Relative clauses

- Mind you
  - We don't use **that** or **what** in non-defining relative clauses



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## Relative clauses

- Comment clauses with **which**
  - We can use a non-defining relative clause, usually at the end of the sentence, to say something about the whole of the main clause
    - The army team was unable to make the bomb safe, **which meant everyone had to leave the area.**

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## Defining relative clauses: pronouns

Relative pronoun	For	Examples
who	People	Mrs Lee was the woman <b>who</b> taught me to play the piano.
which	Animals or things	Their cat has killed the rat <b>which</b> was living under our house. I've got a water heater <b>which</b> uses solar power.
that	People, animals and things	He's the man <b>that</b> I spoke to. Sue's got a cat <b>that</b> loves coffee! It's a phone <b>that</b> can take photos.
whose	Possession and relationships his, her, its or their	I know the man <b>whose</b> wife used to be your boss. Hannah owns a horse <b>whose</b> coat is completely white. (I'm working for a company <b>whose</b> head office is in Zurich.)
when	Time	The day <b>when</b> the concert takes place is Sunday.
why	Reason	The reason <b>why</b> I'm here is because I wanted to see you perform.
where	Place	The place <b>where</b> I grew up is not far from the capital.

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