

REDUCED RELATIVE CLAUSES

- they are especially common in academic English
- when the pronoun: "**who**", "**which**" or "**that**" is the **subject** of a *defining* relative clause, the clause can be reduced in this way
- to form one you change the verb from its original tense to an "**-ing**" form of the verb with an **active** meaning (to say what someone or something is or was doing, did or has done)
- the relative pronoun and any auxiliary verbs ("*to be*" or "*to have*") that were used to form the tense which the participle replaces can be omitted

Examples 1.

- a.) We will look first at problems **arising** during the field-work, before describing the nature of Easton and its police station. **(that have arisen)**
- b.) After all, hundreds of fundamental revolutions **involving** the whole and almost completely illiterate populace of countries have taken place in the history of civilization. **(which involved)**
- c.) The survivors **swimming** from the wreckage were soon rescued. **(who were swimming)**



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- when we are talking about things, the "**-ing**" clause can also describe permanent features of something (Ex.2.a.)
- if a past participle is used ("**-ed**" not "**-ing**"), the meaning is **passive** instead of **active**
- if the verb is irregular, the past participle does not end in "**-ed**", as it is formed in a different way, but the meaning of the clause still has a **passive** meaning

Examples 2.

(a permanent feature)

a.) A database **containing** information relating to bibliographic references and abstracts will be a literary work. **(that contains)**

b.) The money **saved** in the last financial year can be reinvested on the stock exchange. **(which was saved)**

c.) The elephant **rescued** by the volunteers can eventually be released back into the wild. **(which was rescued)**

d.) A member of staff requested a thesis **written** by a Spanish researcher, who was funded by a Spanish university. **(which was written)**



Now try the exercises!

Good luck!

