

Relative clauses 4: extra information clauses (1)

A

There are two types of relative clause. In these examples, the relative clauses are underlined. Compare:

Type 1

- ☐ The woman who lives next door is a doctor.
- ☐ Grace works for a company that makes furniture.
- ☐ We stayed at the hotel (that) you recommended.

In these examples, the relative clauses tell you which person or thing (or what kind of person or thing) the speaker means:

'The woman **who lives next door**' tells us *which* woman.

'A company **that makes furniture**' tells us *what kind* of company.

'The hotel **(that) you recommended**' tells us *which* hotel.

We do not use commas (,) with these clauses:

- ☐ We know a lot of people who live in London.

Type 2

- ☐ My brother Ben, who lives in Hong Kong, is an architect.
- ☐ Anna told me about her new job, which she's enjoying a lot.
- ☐ We stayed at the Park Hotel, which a friend of ours recommended.

In these examples, the relative clauses do not tell you which person or thing the speaker means. We already know which thing or person is meant: 'My brother Ben', 'Anna's new job' and 'the Park Hotel'.

The relative clauses in these sentences give us *extra information* about the person or thing.

We use commas (,) with these clauses:

- ☐ My brother Ben, who lives in Hong Kong, is an architect.

B

In both types of relative clause we use **who** for people and **which** for things. But:

Type 1

You can use **that**:

- ☐ Do you know anyone **who/that** speaks French and Italian?
- ☐ Grace works for a company **which/that** makes furniture.

You can leave out **who/which/that** when it is the object (see Unit 93):

- ☐ We stayed at the hotel (that/which) you recommended.
- ☐ This morning I met somebody (who/that) I hadn't seen for ages.

We do not often use **whom** in this type of clause (see Unit 94B).

Type 2

You cannot use **that**:

- ☐ John, **who** (*not that*) speaks French and Italian, works as a tour guide.
- ☐ Anna told me about her new job, **which** (*not that*) she's enjoying a lot.

You cannot leave out **who** or **which**:

- ☐ We stayed at the Park Hotel, **which** a friend of ours recommended.
- ☐ This morning I met Chris, **who** I hadn't seen for ages.

You can use **whom** for people (when it is the object):

- ☐ This morning I met Chris, **whom** I hadn't seen for ages.

C

In both types of relative clause you can use **whose** and **where**:

- ☐ We met some people **whose** car had broken down.
- ☐ What's the name of the place **where** you went on holiday?
- ☐ Lisa, **whose** car had broken down, was in a very bad mood.
- ☐ Kate has just been to Sweden, **where** her daughter lives.