



lingoda

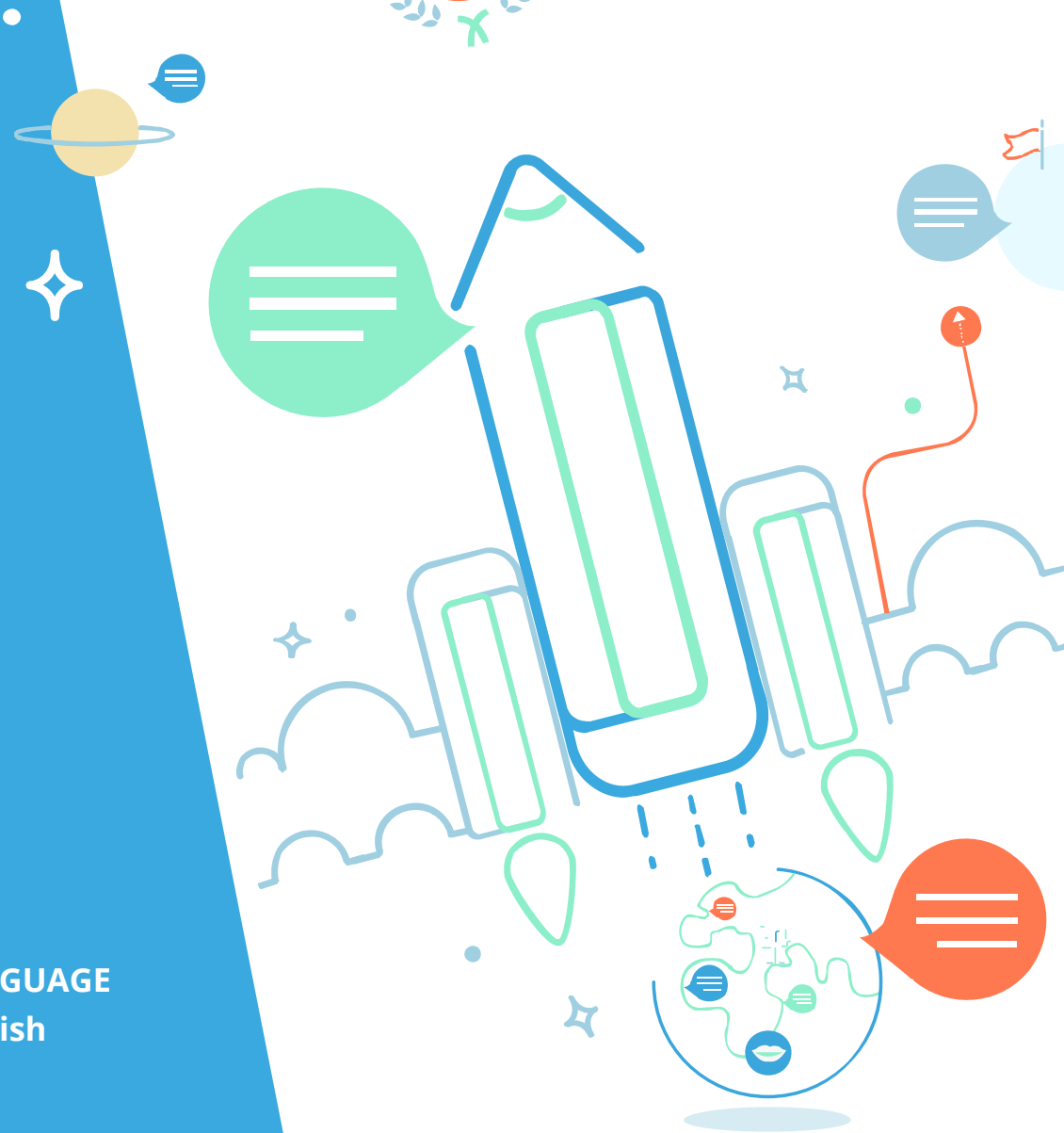
# Relative pronouns in focus

GRAMMAR

LEVEL  
Advanced

NUMBER  
C1\_3011G\_EN

LANGUAGE  
English





## Goals

- Can identify relative pronouns and explain how they are used to add information.
- Can use relative pronouns in my own sentences and provide detailed descriptions using them.







## Prepositional phrases

- **Prepositional phrases** function as adjectives or adverbs.
- They begin with **prepositions** (words that indicate **location**)
- As adjectives they answer the question – which one?



The sandwich **under the bed** is covered with ants!  
The spiders **on the ceiling** are spinning an elaborate web.  
The flowers **in the garden** were trampled by the school children.



## Prepositional phrases

When functioning as adverbs they answer questions such as **how?**, **why?**, or **where?**

- Julia had a headache **from a bad night's sleep**.

The prepositional phrase **from a bad night's sleep** answers the question **How did Julia get a headache?**

- The hurricane violently broke out **before sunset**.

The prepositional phrase **before the sunset** answers the question **When did the hurricane break out?**





## Prepositional phrases

**Can you remember any prepositional phrases from the previous unit? Use the phrases below in a sentence and brainstorm as many as you can!**

after a few  
minutes

by the way

on second  
thought

in no time

under suspicion

on the back  
foot

A blank sheet of lined paper with a spiral binding on the left side, intended for writing sentences and brainstorming.



## Relative pronouns

**Can you remember  
any relative  
pronouns from the  
previous unit?**



## Relative pronouns

- We use **relative pronouns** to refer to a noun mentioned earlier in a sentence in order to add information to it. Relative pronouns ensure the **flow** of a sentence and create relative clauses.

Common relative pronouns include

- who
- whom
- which
- that
- whoever, whomever, whichever.

- Voters around the country have delivered a verdict **that** is difficult to ignore.
- Either candidate, **whomever** the electorate chooses, has a tough job ahead of him/her.
- The outgoing Prime Minister, **who** lost the election by a landslide, was due to give her speech.





## Rules for relative clauses

Relative clauses add additional information to sentences.

- They are attached to independent clauses after being **joined by a relative pronoun** or adverb,
- they contain a subject and a verb;
- relative clauses function as adjectives, answering questions like **What, How** and **Which one?**

- Irma offered me a basket of apples **which I accepted with relish.**

This relative clause shows us **how** I responded to Irma's offer – I accepted it with relish.





## Relative clauses and formal writing

Relative clauses are very relevant for formal writing.

- They are a sophisticated way to **vary** your sentence structures and avoid simplistic writing.
- When introduced with **prepositions and relative pronouns**, relative clauses can be **highly effective** in formal writing.
- Observe how to build this advanced introductory structure below.

preposition	+	relative pronoun
with		whom
after		which
many of		whom
the result of		which
the best of		which





## Advanced structures for relative pronouns

Now observe the table below to see how the previous structure can be used to **introduce a relative clause**.

This effect is particularly effective in formal pieces of writing.

preposition	+	relative pronoun	+	relative clause
with		whom		are you coming to the concert?
a number of		which		have been recommended
neither of		whom		wanted to see the film.
many of		whom		agreed with the professor.



## Advanced structures for relative pronouns

**Try to write three sentences using the sentence fragments below.  
Ensure that each of them includes a relative clause!**

on account of

among

who

go on to study at  
Ivy League  
universities.

which

a number of

whom

which

are many  
distinguished  
personalities.

the best of

decided to leave  
the venue.

many survivors  
owe their lives.

Sentence 1

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Sentence 2

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Sentence 2

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Write sentences using relative clauses to describe the following pictures.





## Passive voice

- Be careful using the **passive voice** in formal writing. It can make your argument less clear.
- The passive voice occurs when the object of the action becomes the subject of the sentence.
  - The dance was highly approved of by the audience.

The **object** of the sentence (**dance**) has become the **subject** of the sentence.



Rewriting it using the active voice, it would look like;

The audience highly approved of the dance.



## Rewrite these sentences from passive to active voice

1. The eggs were cooked well by Robert.



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2. The trip was considered a success by all who took part.



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3. A ceasefire was called by the generals of both parties after a long drawn-out conflict.



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4. That part of the highway was avoided by Dawn as she had a fear of the badly sealed road.



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5. A new system of speed cameras was set up by the police.



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## Modify the sentences

**Add relative clauses to these sentences using the structure of preposition + relative pronoun.**

**Remember, you can place the structure in differing parts of the sentence. The first one has been done for you.**

1. The audience, **the majority of whom were regulars**, gave a big round of applause.
2. Junie and Ben drove quickly to the lake.
3. The house had been severely damaged in the hurricane.
4. The sandwich was left forgotten on the bench.
5. Giant pandas are found in the mountains of China.





## Formal writing

What are the most important aspects of formal writing?



## Formal writing

**Which characteristics are appropriate in formal writing? Sort from the categories below.**

Formal language  
and tone

Contractions and  
abbreviations

Third person voice

Passive voice

Sophisticated  
linking words

References

Present tense

Slang and casual  
language

Formal writing

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Non-formal writing

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## Formal writing

Formal writing is used in **academic** and **scientific** settings as well as **the media**, and uses a different tone, vocabulary and syntax.

Observe the differences in the sentences below. Which one would you be more likely to get back from a potential employer?

This entry is written very **formally**:

- We are writing to inform you that you were unsuccessful in your application for the position. Despite your strong transferable skills with which we were very impressed, another candidate proved to have the necessary experience.

This response is written very **informally**:

- Sorry mate but your job app didn't make it through. It wasn't terrible, but we're not gonna hire you this time. Another fella had more experience, you know? Don't feel too bad!





## Discuss

In what contexts would you use formal writing?



## Formal vs informal

Using the advanced structure of **preposition + relative pronoun** is a better choice of phrasing than using **where** or **when**.

Consider the example below:

- The place **to which we were brought** was a joy to behold.

The sentence above uses the preposition + relative pronoun structure to introduce the relative clause, making for a much more formal sentence than below.

- The place **we were brought to** was a joy to behold.





## Using relative clauses in formal writing

In formal writing, situations in which we use **where**, **when** or **why** (when it is used to explain something) are better served using the advanced structure studied earlier.

- Preposition + which

The difference in levels of formality can be seen in the example below.

- There is a great museum in London **where** the exhibits are fascinating.

Consider the tone of the sentence when **where** is replaced with one of the advanced structures.

- There is a great museum in London **in which** the exhibits are fascinating.





## Remember



- In a formal style or approach to writing, the preposition is placed before the pronouns **whom** or **which**:

- The butler, **to whom** that fantastic car belongs, is due to retire this year.
- The city **from which** I hail is one of the most cultivated in all of the world.
- The cliffs are at the edge of our land, **beyond which** you'll find nothing but wilderness.
- Ms Anderson, **with whom** I had the pleasure of speaking yesterday, said nothing but good things about Jeremy's schoolwork.



## Rewrite these sentences to make them more formal

1. The nineteenth century was a period when women weren't equal.



The nineteenth century was a period during which women weren't equal.

2. Bastille Day is a day when we celebrate French culture.



\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. Nobody knows the reason why we dream.



\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. Charlie gazed down at the crowd gathered impatiently outside the cinema.



\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. The board members who I had lunch with after the meeting slowly left the room.



\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_





## Prepositions in relative clauses: counting

The advanced structures used to introduce relative clauses can be grouped into different categories. When it comes to **counting** use the following:

- Many of + relative pronoun
- a number of + rp
- most of + rp
- none of + rp

- The eggs, **many of which** were rotten, were recalled by the supermarket.
- We visited some fine beaches in Italy, **a number of which** we would go to again.
- The sandwiches sat untouched on the table, **none of which** looked appetising.





## Prepositions in relative clauses: superlatives

The advanced structures used to introduce relative clauses can be grouped into different categories. When it comes to superlatives use the following:

- The best of + rp
- The worst of + rp
- The least of + rp
- The biggest of + rp
- The smallest of + rp

- John and Mike caught ten fish, **the biggest of which** weighed four ounces, on their outing this afternoon.
- Lenny went on three dates over the weekend, **the best of which** lasted seven hours.
- We interviewed several candidates for the position, **the best of whom** will be contacted shortly.





## Alter the sentences

**Insert a counting preposition + relative pronoun to formalise these sentences.**

1. The children lined up outside the classroom impatiently.
2. Baskets of apples were left forgotten in the marketplace.
3. The seagulls circled hungrily overhead.
4. The crate of records were sitting in the dusty loft upstairs.
5. The flights to Rome were cancelled.



## Use relative clauses to improve the writing

It was a beautiful night when we left the restaurant. We took to strolling down the boulevard where we saw the light dancing on the surface of the water. I turned to see many other diners who were eating and drinking on the streets of the cafes. Turning to the face of my beloved, I felt a wave of affection.



after which

many of whom

behind which



## Use a preposition + relative clause to link these sentences together

1. World War II caused widespread physical and psychological damage. The effects of the war were felt for decades.



World War II caused widespread physical and psychological damage, the effects of which were ongoing for decades.

2. The global population is growing at an alarming rate. Food shortages may occur sooner than anticipated.



\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. There were thousands of people in attendance at the seminar. Most agreed with the cause.



\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Twenty five people were in attendance at the seminar. Seventeen were experts on the topic



\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5. It had been years since the old woman had left the village. Her journey towards the city was very eye-opening.



\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



## Discussion

**What would be your dream job? What skills do you have that would help you get it and thrive?**

**Talk to your teacher about the job, and why you think you would excel at the role. Try to use some of the formal techniques used in the lesson.**

Experience?

Quick learner?

Enthusiasm?

Team worker?



## Write a formal letter

**You've been invited to a job interview at a prestigious company. It's the job of your dreams! They've asked you to write a cover letter – why you want the job, some of your prior experience and what you can bring to the company. Write the letter, and remember to use formal language!**

Remember to  
use the  
advanced  
structures in  
today's lesson!





## Talk to the teacher

Remember to  
keep practising!

How could developing your formal writing skills help you achieve some of your goals?

"I would love to get into a prestigious English university to further my career..."





## Reflect on the lesson

Take a moment to review any new **vocabulary, phrases, language structures** or **grammar points** you have come across for the first time in this lesson.

Review them with your teacher one more time to make sure you don't forget!





## Answer key

### Exercise p. 13

Accept any correct answer.

### Exercise p. 15

Robert cooked the eggs well.

All who took part considered the trip a success.

The generals of both parties called a ceasefire after the long drawn out conflict.

Dawn avoided that part of the highway as she had a fear of the badly sealed road.

The police set up a new system of speed cameras.

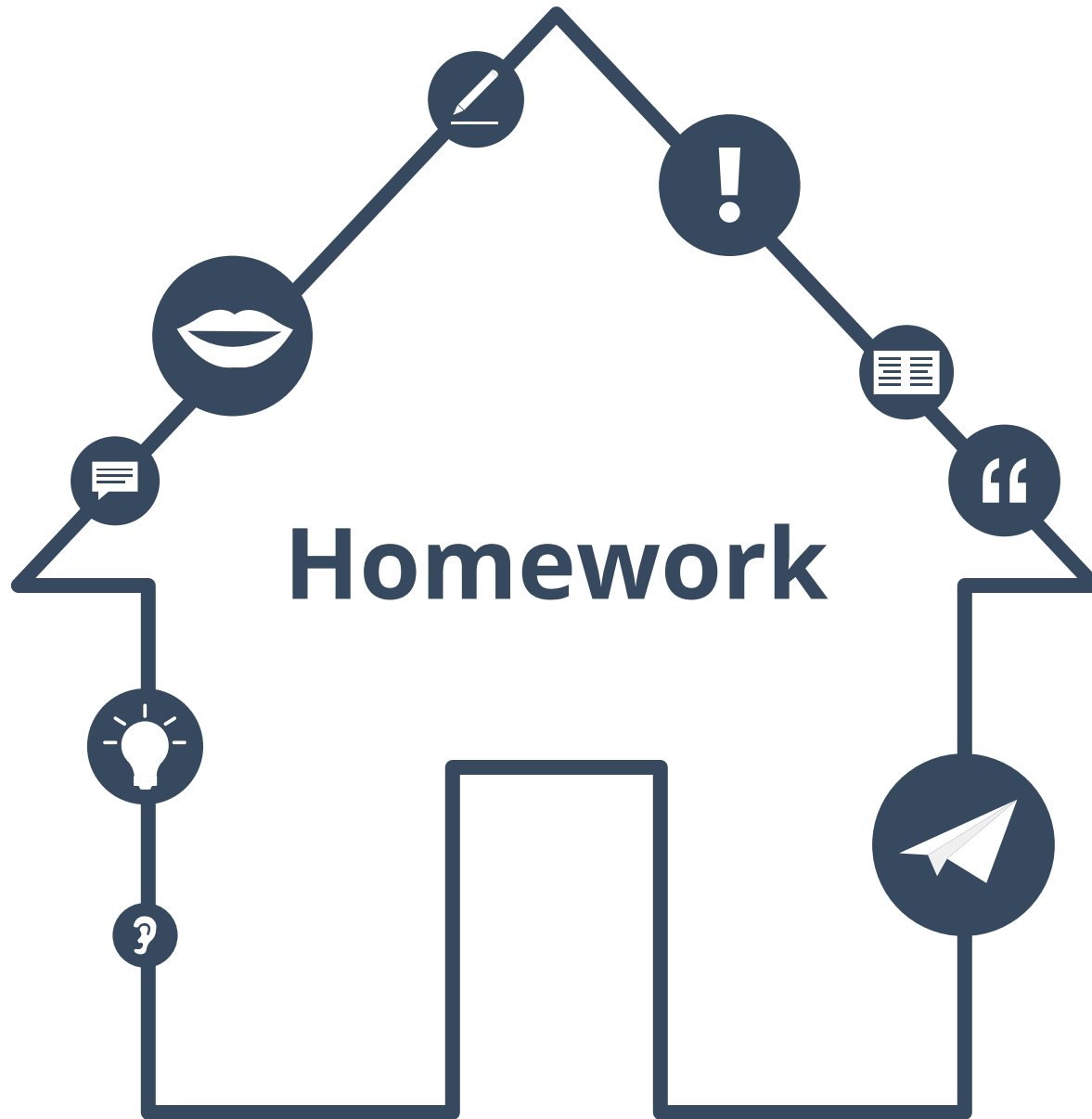
### Exercise p. 18

Formal writing: formal language and tone, sophisticated linking words, references, present tense, third person voice  
Non-formal writing: contractions and abbreviations, slang and casual language, passive voice

### Exercise p. 24

Bastille Day is a day during which we celebrate French culture.  
Nobody knows the reasons by which we dream.

Charlie gazed down at the crowd which gathered impatiently outside the cinema.  
The board members with whom I had lunch after the meeting slowly left the room.





## Brainstorm

**Create two lists to expand your formal vocabulary. Brainstorm and come up with as many prepositional phrases and relative pronouns as you can.**  
**You will need them for the next activity.**

Prepositional phrases

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Relative pronouns

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## Advanced sentence practice

**Practise your preposition + relative clause form by writing sentences.**

**Remember – placing the preposition before the pronouns whom and which will result in a more formal style.**

A graphic of a spiral-bound notebook with a light gray cover and white pages. A white sticky note with a torn edge is stuck to the top right of the notebook. The sticky note contains the text "preposition + relative pronoun + relative clause" in a black, sans-serif font. The notebook pages are lined with horizontal gray lines. The first page has the text "The students watched the horses compete, the best of which would win a yellow ribbon." written on it. The second page is blank.

preposition + relative  
pronoun + relative clause

The students watched the horses  
compete, the best of which would win a  
yellow ribbon.



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