

GRAMMAR

More on relative clauses

LEVEL

Intermediate (B1)

NUMBER

EN_B1_3072G

LANGUAGE

English





Learning outcomes

 I can distinguish between defining and non-defining relative clauses.

 I can use defining and nondefining relative clauses to write about a work-related experience.





Warm-up



Answer the questions in breakout rooms or together as a class!

Could you start a business with a good friend?

Why or why not?







The story of Ben & Jerry's

- 1. **Read** the text.
- 2. **Answer** the prediction questions in the red box.

In 1978, Ben Cohen was working as a taxi driver and Jerry Greenfield, who was his best friend, was working as a lab technician. The two friends were unhappy with what they were doing with their lives and decided to start a business together.

They both liked food a lot, which helped them narrow down their business ideas, but they had no experience. They completed an ice-cream making course, which cost just \$5, and then searched for property that they could afford in a small college town.



- 1. What is shown in the picture?
- 2. How do you think it is connected to Ben and Jerry's story?
- 3. Read the text on the next slide to find out!





The story of Ben & Jerry's, continued

Read the text.

They bought an abandoned gas station which cost \$12,000 to repair. When they opened their ice-cream store, it was Jerry who suggested they name it Ben & Jerry's.

It was challenging to run the store—money was always an issue. They decided to sell containers of their icecream to mom-and-pop grocery stores, which helped them make more money in the winter.

Eventually Ben & Jerry's popularity grew, and the company was sold to Unilever. Now, the tasty ice-cream can be found all over the world!







Does your hometown have any mom-and-pop grocery stores?

How are mom-and-pop grocery stores different from other grocery stores?

Which do you prefer?





What's your opinion?

- 1. **Read** the adjectives. Are any **new to you**?
- 2. Which of the adjectives do you think **best describe** Ben and Jerry?
- 3. **Explain** why.







Defining relative clauses

- 1. **Read** the example sentences.
- 2. **Complete** the blue boxes.

It was Jerry who suggested they name their store Ben & Jerry's.

They bought an abandoned gas station which cost \$12,000 to repair.

- Defining relative clauses give essential information about the person or thing we are talking about.
- The **relative pronoun** which introduces the defining relative clause replaces the **noun**.
- Commas are not used in defining relative clauses.

- The relative pronoun **that** is often used in spoken English to replace **who** or **which.**
- Transform the sentences above so that they use the relative pronoun *that*.





Who, which, that and where

Review the information below.

The most common relative pronouns are **who**, **which**, **that**, and **where**.

- **Who** is for people.
- Which is for animals and things, but not people.
- That is for animals and things. We can also use that for people, but who is more common.
- Where is for places.

Main clause	Relative pronoun + clause
They are the people	who started Ben & Jerry's
Ben and Jerry took a course	which cost just \$5
Ben and Jerry searched for property	that they could afford.
That is the gas station	where the first Ben & Jerry's ice cream was sold.





Who, which, that or where?

Complete the sentences with who, which, that or where.

1	The person	_ you met at the mom-and-pop grocery store was my sister.
2	The ice cream	I bought today has already been eaten!
3	That is the place	Ben and Jerry opened their first store.
4	The gas station	Ben and Jerry bought was in Vermont.
5	The course	cost \$5 helped Ben and Jerry start their business.



Non-defining relative clauses

- 1. **Read** the example sentences.
- 2. **Review** the information in the blue boxes.

In 1978, Ben Cohen was working as a taxi driver and Jerry Greenfield, who was his best friend, was working as a lab technician.

They both liked food a lot, which helped them narrow down their business ideas, but they had no experience in the industry.

- Non-defining relative clauses provide **extra**, non-essential **information** in a sentence.
- Non-defining relative clauses **can be removed** from the sentence and the sentence will still be complete.
- **Commas are used** before and after non-defining clauses.





Who, which, and whom

Review the information below.

The relative pronouns in non-defining relative clauses are **who**, **which**, and **whom**.

- Who is for people.
- Which is for animals and things, but not people.
- **Whom** is used for **people** when the relative pronoun is an **object**. It's very formal and not very common.
- Prepositions can come at the end of the clause. In a more formal written style, they appear before the pronoun.

non-defining relative clause		
Ben Cohen,	who was working as a taxi driver,	started a business with his friend.
The first store,	which was an abandoned gas station,	was repaired for \$12,000.
My uncle,	for whom I was working,	knew Ben and Jerry personally.
The ice cream flavour,	which I'd never heard of,	was popular with the kids.





Defining or non-defining relative clause?

Categorise the sentences.

My best friend, who lives in Vermont, once met Ben and Jerry.

The shop which we just passed used to be a mom-and-pop grocery store.

The gas station, which cost \$12,000 to repair, was where Ben and Jerry first sold ice cream.

I'd like to work at a place that gives its employees free ice cream every day.

People who eat ice cream are said to be happier than those who don't.

Burlington, where Ben and Jerry started their business, is a college town in Vermont.

Defining relative clause

Non-defining relative clause





Rewrite the sentences as relative clauses

- 1. **Complete** the sentences on the left with the information in the red box.
- 2. **Rewrite** them as relative clauses in the chat.

1	That's the city That's the city where the first store was opened.
2	Let me introduce you to my business partner
3	The name of our company,, was something we agreed on right away.
4	That's the person
5	The company,, has nearly doubled in size in the past year.

- **a.** That person inspired me to start my own business.
- **b.** The company was founded in 2015.
- **c.** The first store was opened in the city.
- **d.** I've known my business partner since childhood.
- **e.** The name of the company was inspired by our children.





Share your experiences

Use relative clauses to talk about your experiences.

A time when you learned something new.

The people who have inspired you.

A skill that you want to develop.

A task at work that you don't enjoy.

A place where you like to work.

A business idea that you have.

____ is someone who has inspired me because...

_____ is a task that I don't enjoy, because...





Discuss

Answer the question below.

How would you describe yourself at work?

Use some of the adjectives from earlier.





9.

Let's reflect!

 Can you distinguish between defining and non-defining relative clauses?

 Can you use defining and nondefining relative clauses to write about a work-related experience?

Your teacher will now make one suggestion for improvement for each student.



End of the lesson

Idiom

Easier said than done!

Meaning: not as easy as it seems to be

Example: Starting a business with your best friend is easier said than done!







Additional practice



Choose the correct relative pronoun



Complete these defining and non-defining relative clauses.

1	My brother, lives in San Diego, works as a mechanic.		
	a. that	b. who	c. which
2	That's the girl	won the championship!	
	a. whom	b. where	c. who
3	I'm going to clean the room you spilled all that milk.		
	a. where	b. which	c. that
4	I'm planning to grow	some tulips, are	my favourite flowers, in the spring.
	a. whom	b. which	c. when
5	I love the trainers	my mum gave me.	
	a. that	b. whom	c. when



9.

Correct the mistakes



Each sentence has a **mistake** with the **relative pronoun**. **Correct** the mistakes.

- 1 That's the boy (which) broke his leg.
- 2 My son, (whom) lives in Spain, is a student.
- **3** That is the house (when) I grew up.
- 4 Winter is the season (who) we go skiing.
- **5** Easter, (where) we celebrate in March or April, is in autumn in the southern hemisphere.





Facts



Work with a partner to create sentences about one of these people or things. **Use the examples** about Tokyo to help you.

Tokyo is the capital of Japan. Tokyo The River Nile Tokyo, which is the capital of Japan, is a very large city. Albert Einstein **Elvis Presley** Tokyo, which is the capital of Japan, is a very large city where most people speak Japanese.





Practising relative clauses



Choose two of the situations below and talk about them with a partner.

A country where the work culture is different from yours

A language that you'd like to learn for pleasure

A time when you failed an exam

A job you had that you hated



Answer key

P.4: 1.) an abandoned gas station

P.8:

It was Jerry **that** suggested they name their store Ben & Jerry's.

They bought an abandoned gas station *that* cost \$12,000 to repair.

P.10: 1.) who/that 2.) that 3.) where 4.) which/that 5.) which/that

P.13:

Defining relative clauses: 2, 4, 5

Non-defining relative clauses: 1, 3, 6

P.14:

- 2.) d: Let me introduce you to my business partner **who** I've known since childhood.
- 3.) e: The name of our company, *that/which* was inspired by our children, was something we agreed on right away.
- 4.) a: That's the person **who/that** inspired me to start my business
- 5.) b: The company, **which/that** was founded in 2015, has nearly doubled in size in the past year.
- **P. 20**: 1.) who 2.) who 3.) where 4.) which 5.) that
- P. 21: 1.) who/that 2.) who 3.) where 4.) when/that 5.) which



9.

Summary

Using defining relative clauses:

- A defining relative clause gives essential information about someone or something.
- The most common relative pronouns are who, which, that, and where.

Using non-defining relative clauses:

- Non-defining relative clauses provide **extra**, non-essential **information** in a sentence.
- They can be removed from the sentence and the sentence will still be complete.
- Commas are used before and after non-defining clauses.

More on non-defining relative clauses:

- The relative pronouns in non-defining relative clauses are **who**, **which**, and **whom**.
- **Prepositions** can come at the end of the clause. In a more formal written style, they appear before the pronoun.





Vocabulary

mom-and-pop grocery store

ambitious

gutsy

courageous

passionate

enthusiastic





Notes



