

Relative Clauses: Breaking Apart

A relative clause is a clause that describes a noun and uses a relative pronoun. The relative pronouns are *that*, *who/whoever*, *whom/whomever*, *whose*, *which*, and sometimes *when*, *where*, *what*, and *why*.

Example: Here is my dog that likes to play.

The relative pronoun in the sentence is *that*. The relative clause modifies, or describes, the *dog*.

A sentence with a relative clause can be broken apart to make two sentences.

Example: Here is my dog. This dog likes to play.

Below are sentences containing relative clauses. Rewrite each sentence making two sentences without a relative clause.

1. My mother, who is from Ohio, likes classical music.

■ _____

2. I like cats that are black and white.

■ _____

3. The strange form that floated across the lawn looked like a ghost.

■ _____

4. The teacher told the rules for the test to the students, who listened closely.

■ _____

5. The concert, which many people attended, was very successful.

■ _____

6. The couch where the dogs sleep is old and ugly.

■ _____

7. The sun, which had been shining brightly all day, suddenly was hidden by clouds.

■ _____

8. Nikki, whose turn it was to pass out papers, was not at school.

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The relative pronoun in the sentence is *that*. The relative clause modifies, or describes, the *dog*.

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Below are sentences containing relative clauses. Rewrite each sentence making two sentences without a relative clause. **Actual student answers may vary. Example of correct answers.**

1. My mother, who is from Ohio, likes classical music.

■ **My mother is from Ohio. She likes classical music.**

2. I like cats that are black and white.

■ **I like cats. I like black and white ones.**

3. The strange form that floated across the lawn looked like a ghost.

■ **The strange form floated across the lawn. It looked like a ghost.**

4. The teacher told the rules for the test to the students, who listened closely.

■ **The teacher told the rules for the test to the students. They listened closely.**

5. The concert, which many people attended, was very successful.

■ **The concert was very successful. Many people attended the concert.**

6. The couch where the dogs sleep is old and ugly.

■ **The dogs sleep on the couch. It is old and ugly.**

7. The sun, which had been shining brightly all day, suddenly was hidden by clouds.

■ **The sun had been shining brightly all day. Suddenly it was hidden by clouds.**

8. Nikki, whose turn it was to pass out papers, was not at school.

■ **Nikki was not at school. It was her turn to pass out papers.**