

Relative Clauses: What Is It Modifying?

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*.

Below are sentences containing relative clauses. Underline the relative clause and circle the word it is modifying.

1. We liked the shoes that were in the store window.
2. Leticia, who likes fruit, often eats oranges.
3. The children played the game that they found in the closet.
4. An elephant, which may live 70 years, is the largest land mammal.
5. People who help other people are true heroes.
6. This is the table that my father built.
7. The pioneers climbed the mountain that would lead them to their new home.
8. The book that is by the telephone is very difficult to read.

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