Relative clauses (1) - clauses with who/that/which

Look at this example sentence:

The woman who lives next door is a doctor.

A clause is a part of a sentence. A relative clause tells us which person or thing (or what kind of person or thing) the speaker means:

- The woman who lives next door... ('who lives next door' tells us which woman)
- People who live in London... ('who live in London' tells us what kind of people)

We use who in a relative clause when we are talking about people (not things). We use who instead of he/she/they:

the woman – she lives next door – is a doctor

→ The woman who lives next door is a doctor.

we know a lot of people – they live in London

→ We know a lot of people who live in London.

- An architect is someone who designs buildings.
- What was the name of the man who lent you the money?
- Anyone who wants to do the exam must enter before next Friday.

You can also use that (instead of who):

• The man that lives next door is very friendly.

But sometimes you must use who (not 'that') for people - see Unit 94.

When we are talking about things, we use that or which (not 'who') in a relative clause:

- I don't like stories that have unhappy endings. (or ...stories which have...)
- Barbara works for a company that makes washing machines. (or ...a company which makes...)
- The machine that broke down has now been repaired. (or The machine which broke down...)

That is more usual than which. But sometimes you must use which (not 'that') - see Unit 94.

You cannot use what in sentences like these:

Everything that happened was my fault. (not 'Everything what happened...')

What = 'the thing(s) that':

• What happened was my fault. (= the thing that happened)

Remember that in relative clauses we use who/that/which instead of he/she/they/it. So we say:

• Do you know the woman who lives next door? (not '...the woman she lives next door')

400

Relative clauses (2)–(5) → Time (2,2)5

EXERCISES

In this exercise you have to explain what some words mean. Choose the right meaning from the box and then write a sentence with who. Use a dictionary if necessary.

he/she designs doesn't	buildings believe in God	he/she	pays rent to live in a hou breaks into a house to sto no longer works and gets	se or flat eal things
1 (an architect) 2 (a burglar) 3 (a customer) 4 (a shoplifter) 5 (a coward) 6 (an atheist) 7 (a pensioner) 8 (a tenant)	A burglar is som	neone		
1 A girl was injunThe girl who was 2 A man answere The man	red in the accident as injured in the act in the act in the act in the act in the phone. He ded us. She was verestroyed in the arrested. They he airport. It runs	t. She is no coldent is told me your impolitation. It has you have no severy ha	ow in hospital. now in hospital. ou were away. te and impatient. s now been rebuilt. w been released. If hour.	-
he invented the to she runs away from they are never on they stole my car they were on the 1 Barbara works 2 The book is al 3 What was the 4 The police hav 5 Alexander Bell 6 What's happer 7 A mystery is se 8 A dictionary is 9 I don't like pec	om home a time wall s for a company a court a girl a company or the horse of the horse of the man and to the picture of the pi	it gives y it won th it can su it cannot that mal	ou the meaning of words ne race pport life be explained see washing machines.	?
	he/she designs doesn't is not be doesn't is not be designs doesn't is not be design doesn't is not be design doesn't is not be design d	1 (an architect)	he/she designs buildings doesn't believe in God is not brave 1 (an architect)	he/she designs buildings doesn't believe in God is not brave he/she doesn't believe in God is not brave he/she doesn't believe in God is not brave he/she he

Relative clauses (2) – clauses with or without who/that/which

Loo.	k again	at 1	these	exampl	e sentences	from	Unit	9	1:
------	---------	------	-------	--------	-------------	------	------	---	----

- The woman who lives next door is a doctor. (or The woman that lives...)

 The woman lives next door. who (= the woman) is the subject
- Where is the cheese that was in the fridge? (or ...the cheese which was...)

The cheese was in the fridge. that (= the cheese) is the subject

You must use who/that/which when it is the subject of the relative clause. You cannot say 'The woman lives next door is a doctor' or 'Where is the cheese was in the fridge?'

Sometimes who/that/which is the object of the verb. For example:

• The woman who I wanted to see was away on holiday.

I wanted to see the woman. who (= the woman) is the object
I is the subject

• Have you found the keys that you lost?

You lost the keys. that (= the keys) is the object. you is the subject

When who/that/which is the object, you can leave it out. So you can say:

- The woman I wanted to see was away. or The woman who I wanted to see...
- Have you found the keys you lost? or ...the keys that you lost?
- The dress Ann bought doesn't fit her very well. or The dress that Ann bought...
- Is there anything I can do? or ...anything that I can do?

Note that we say:

the keys you lost (not 'the keys you lost them') the dress Ann bought (not 'bought it')

Notice the position of prepositions (in/at/with etc.) in relative clauses:

- do you know the woman? Tom is talking to her

 → Do you know the woman (who/that) Tom is talking to?

 the bed I slept in it last night wasn't very comfortable

 → The bed (that/which) I slept in last night wasn't very comfortable.
 - Are these the keys (that/which) you were looking for?
 - The woman (who/that) he fell in love with left him after a few weeks.
 - The man (who/that) I was sitting next to on the plane talked all the time.

In all these examples, you can leave out who/that/which.

Note that we say:

the books you were looking for (not 'the books you were looking for them')

You cannot use what in sentences like these:

- Everything (that) they said was true. (not 'Everything what they said...')
- I gave her all the money (that) I had. (not '...all the money what I had')

What = the thing(s) that:

• Did you hear what they said? (= the things that they said)

Relative clauses (1) \rightarrow Unit 91.

Relative clauses (3)–(5) → UNITS 93–95

2.2	In some of these sentences you don't need who or that. If you don't need these words, put them in brackets like this: (who) (that). 1 The woman who lives next door is a doctor. ('who' is necessary in this sentence) 2 Have you found the keys (that) you lost. (in this sentence you don't need 'that') 3 The people who we met at the party were very friendly. 4 The people who work in the office are very friendly. 5 The people who I talked to were very friendly. 6 What have you done with the money that I gave you? 7 What happened to the money that was on the table? Did you take it? 8 It was an awful film. It was the worst film that I've ever seen. 9 It was an awful experience. It was the worst thing that has ever happened to me. Complete these sentences with a relative clause. Use the sentences in the box to make your
	relative clauses.
	we hired a car you're going to see a film Ann is wearing a dress you had to do some work you lost some keys we wanted to visit a museum I invited some people to the party Tom recommended a hotel to us we wanted to visit a museum
	Have you found the keysyou lost? I like the dress
2.3	Complete these sentences using a relative clause with a preposition.
-	we went to a party last night you can rely on George we were invited to a wedding I work with a number of people I applied for a job you told me about a hotel you were looking for some keys I saw you with a man
2.4	1 Are these the keysyou were looking for? 2 Unfortunately we couldn't go to the wedding
	7 I don't agree with you've just said. 8 I don't trust him. I don't believe anything he says.
P	

Relative clauses (3) – whose/whom/where

Whose

We use whose in relative clauses instead of his/her/their:

we saw some people - their car had broken down We saw some people whose car had broken down.

We use whose mostly for people:

- A widow is a woman whose husband is dead. (her husband is dead)
- What's the name of the man whose car you borrowed? (you borrowed his car)
- A few days ago I met someone whose brother I went to school with. (I went to school with his/her brother)

Compare who and whose:

- I met a man who knows you. (he knows you)
- I met a man whose sister knows you. (his sister knows you)

Whom

Whom is possible instead of who when it is the object of the verb in the relative clause (like the sentences in Unit 92B):

The woman whom I wanted to see was away on holiday. (I wanted to see her)

You can also use whom with a preposition (to whom / from whom / with whom etc.):

- The woman with whom he fell in love left him after a few weeks. (he fell in love with her) But we do not often use whom. In spoken English we usually prefer who or that, or nothing (see Unit 92). So we usually say:
 - The man I saw... or The man who/that I saw...
- The woman he fell in love with... or The woman who/that he fell in love with... For whom see also Units 94–95.

Where

You can use where in a relative clause to talk about a place:

the hotel - we stayed there - wasn't very clean The hotel where we stayed wasn't very clean.

- I recently went back to the town where I was born. (or ... the town I was born in. or ...the town that I was born in.)
- I would like to live in a country where there is plenty of sunshine.

We say: the day / the year / the time (etc.) { something happens or that something happens

- Do you still remember the day (that) we first met?
- The last time (that) I saw her, she looked very well.
- I haven't seen them since the year (that) they got married.

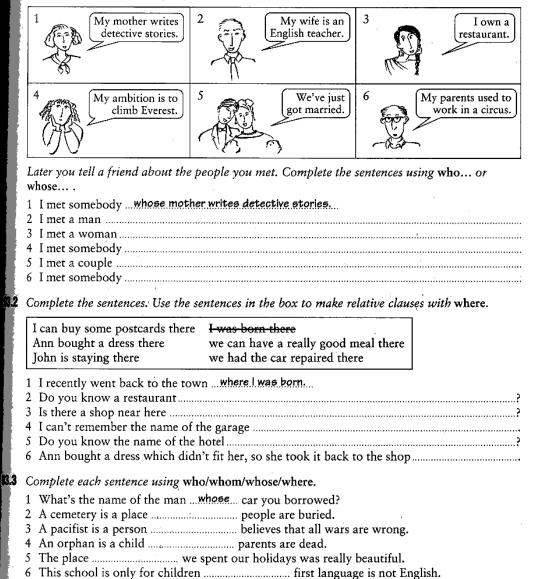
We say: the reason { something happens or that/why something happens

• The reason I'm phoning you is to invite you to a party. (or The reason that I'm phoning... / The reason why I'm phoning...)

Relative clauses (1) and (2) → UNITS 91-92

Relative clauses (4) and (5) → UNITS 94-95

You met these people at a party:



7 I don't know the name of the woman to I spoke on the phone.

1 I'll always remember the day I first met you.

3.4 Use your own ideas to complete these sentences. They are like the ones in Sections **D** and **E**.

2 I'll never forget the time was that I didn't know your address.
4 Unfortunately I wasn't at home the evening is that they don't need one.
6 1989 was the year

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

Type 1

- The woman who lives next door is a
- Barbara works for a company that makes washing machines.
- We stayed at the hotel (that) Ann recommended to us.

In these examples, the relative clause tells 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 washing machines' tells us what kind of company.

'The hotel (that) Ann recommended tells us which hotel.

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

We know a lot of people who live in London. (what kind of people)

Type 2

- My brother Jim, who lives in London, is a doctor.
- Colin told me about his new job, which he's enjoying very much.
- We stayed at the Grand Hotel, which Ann recommended to us.

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 Jim', 'Colin's new job' and 'the Grand Hotel'.

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

We use commas (,) in these clauses:

 My brother Jim, who lives in London, is a doctor. (extra information about Jim)

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?
- Barbara works for a company which/that makes washing machines.

You can leave out that/who/which when it is the object (see Unit 92):

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

We do not often use whom in this type of clause (see Unit 93B).

Type 2

You cannot use that:

- John, who (not 'that') speaks French and Italian, works as a tourist guide.
- Colin told me about his new job, which (not 'that') he's enjoying very much.

You cannot leave out who or which:

 We stayed at the Grand Hotel, which Ann recommended to us.

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

 This morning I met Diane, whom (or who) I hadn't seen for ages.

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 spent your holiday?
- Amy, whose car had broken down, was in a very bad mood.
- Mrs Bond is going to spend a few weeks in Sweden, where her daughter lives.

EXERCISES

light.

Scus	ometimes the clause goes in the middle of the sentence, sometimes at the end. You will need to be who(m)/whose/which/where.
1 2	Ann is very friendly. (She lives next door.) Ann, who lives next door, is very friendly. We stayed at the Grand Hotel. (Ann recommended it to us.) We stayed at the Grand Hotel, which Ann recommended to us.
3	We went to Sandra's party. (We enjoyed it very much.)
4	We went to Sandra's party,
5	John is one of my closest friends. (I have known him for a very long time.) John
6	Sheila is away from home a lot. (Her job involves a lot of travelling.)
7	The new stadium will be opened next month. (It can hold 90,000 people.) The
8	We often go to visit our friends in Bristol. (It is only 30 miles away.)
9	Glasgow is the largest city in Scotland. (My brother lives there.)
tel Us	rad the information and complete the sentences. Use a relative clause. Sometimes the clause is us which thing or person (Type 1); sometimes it only gives us extra information (Type 2). se commas where necessary.
1	There's a woman living next door. She's a doctor. The womanwho lives next door is a doctor.
2	I've got a brother called Jim. He lives in London. He's a doctor.
3	My brother Jim who lives in London, is a doctor. There was a strike at the car factory. It lasted ten days. It is now over.
	The strike at the car factory
4	I was looking for a book this morning. I've found it now. I've found
5	London was once the largest city in the world, but the population is now falling. The population of London
6	A job was advertised. A lot of people applied for it. Few of them had the necessary qualifications. Few of
7	Margaret has a son. She showed me a photograph of him. He's a policeman. Margaret showed me
In	some of these sentences you can use which or that; in others, only which is possible. Cross t that if only which is possible. Also, put commas (,) where necessary.
1	Jane works for a company which / that makes shoes. (both possible, no commas)
2	Colin told me about his new job , which / that he's enjoying very much. (only which is
	possible; comma necessary) My office which / that is on the second floor of the building is very small.
	My office which / that is on the second floor of the building is very small. The office which / that I'm using at the moment is very small.
	She told me her address which / that I wrote down on a piece of paper.
6	There are some words which / that are very difficult to translate.
7	The sun which / that is one of millions of stars in the universe provides us with heat and

Relative clauses (5) - 'extra information' clauses (2)

Prepositions + whom/which

In 'extra information' clauses (see Unit 94 – Type 2) you can use a preposition before whom (for people) and which (for things). So you can say:

to whom / with whom / about which / for which etc.:

- Mr Carter, to whom I spoke on the phone last night, is very interested in our plan.
- Fortunately we had a map, without which we would have got lost.

In spoken English we often keep the preposition after the verb in the relative clause. When we do this, we normally use **who** (not 'whom') for people:

- This is Mr Carter, who I was telling you about.
- Yesterday we visited the City Museum, which I'd never been to before.

All of / most of etc. + whom/which

Study these examples:

Mary has three brothers. All of them are married. (2 sentences)

Mary has three brothers, all of whom are married. (1 sentence)

They asked me a lot of questions. I couldn't answer most of them. (2 sentences)
They asked me a lot of questions, most of which I couldn't answer. (1 sentence)

They asked the a lot of questions, most of which I couldn't answer. [13]

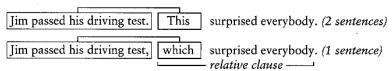
In the same way you can say:

none of / neither of / any of / either of some of / many of / much of / (a) few of both of / half of / each of / one of / two of (etc.)

- + whom (people)
 + which (things)
- Tom tried on three jackets, none of which fitted him.
- Two men, neither of whom I had ever seen before, came into my office.
- They've got three cars, two of which they never use.
- Sue has a lot of friends, many of whom she was at school with.

Which (not 'what')

Study this example:



In this example, which = 'the fact that he passed his driving test'. You must use which (not 'what') in sentences like these:

- Sheila couldn't come to the party, which was a pity. (not '...what was a pity')
- The weather was very good, which we hadn't expected. (not '...what we hadn't expected')

For what, see also Units 91C and 92D.

EXERCISES

Make two sentences from one using a relative clause. Use the sentence in brackets to make the relative clause.
1 Mr Carter is very interested in our plan. (I spoke to him on the phone last night.) Mr Carter, to whom I spoke on the phone last night, is very interested in our plan.
2 This is a photograph of our friends. (We went on holiday with these friends.)
This is a photograph
3 The wedding took place last Friday. (Only members of the family were invited to it.) The wedding
4 Sheila finally arrived. (We had been waiting for her.)
5 We climbed to the top of the tower. (We had a beautiful view from there.)
Write sentences with all of / most of etc. + whom/which.
1 Mary has three brothers. (All of her brothers are married.) Mary has three brothers, all of whom are married.
2 We were given a lot of information. (Most of the information was useless.) We were given
3 There were a lot of people at the party. (I had met only a few of these people before.)
4 I have sent her two letters. (She has received neither of these letters.)
5 Ten people applied for the job. (None of these people were suitable.)
6 Kate has got two cars. (She hardly ever uses one of them.)
7 Norman won £50;000. (He gave half of this to his parents.)
8 Julia has two sisters. (Both of her sisters are teachers.)
Join a sentence from Box A with a sentence from Box B to make a new sentence. Use which.
1 Sheila couldn't come to the party. A This was very nice of her. B
2 Jill isn't on the phone. This means we can't go away tomorrow.
3 Neil has passed his examinations. 4 Our flight was delayed. This makes it difficult to contact her. This makes it difficult to sleep.
5 Ann offered to let me stay in her house. This makes it difficult to sleep. This makes it difficult to sleep.
6 The street I live in is very noisy at night. This is good news.
7 Our car has broken down. This meant we had to wait four hours at the airport.
1 Sheila couldn't come to the party,which was a pity
2 Jill isn't
3
4
5
7

91.1

- 2 A burglar is someone who breaks into a house to steal things.
- 3 A customer is someone who buys something from a shop.
- 4 A shoplifter is someone who steals from a shop.
- 5 A coward is someone who is not brave.
- 6 An atheist is someone who doesn't believe in God.
- 7 A pensioner is someone who no longer works and gets money from the state.
- 8 A tenant is someone who pays rent to live in a house or flat.

91.2

- 2 The man who/that answered the phone told me you were away.
- 3 The waitress who/that served us was very impolite and impatient.
- 4 The building that/which was destroyed in the fire has now been rebuilt.
- 5 The people who/that were arrested have now been released.
- 6 The bus that/which goes to the airport runs every half hour.

91.3

- 2 who/that runs away from home
- 3 that/which won the race
- 4 who/that stole my car
- 5 who/that invented the telephone
- 6 that/which were on the wall
- 7 that/which cannot be explained
- 8 that/which gives you the meaning of words
- 9 who/that are never on time
- 10 that/which can support life

KEY TO EXERCISES

UNIT 92

92.1

3 (who)

4 who

7 that 8 (that)

5 (who) 9 that

6 (that)

(that/which) Ann is wearing

(that/which) we wanted to visit

(that/which) you're going to see

(who/that) I invited to the party

(that/which) you had to do (that/which) we hired

(that/which) Tom recommended to

(that/which) we were invited to

(who/that) I work with

(that/which) you told me about

(that/which) we went to last night

(that/which) I applied for

(who/that) you can rely on (who/that) I saw you with

92.4

2 (that)

6 (that)

3 what 4 that

what 8 (that)

5 (that)

UNIT 93

93.1

- 2 whose wife is an English teacher.
- 3 who owns a restaurant.
- whose ambition is to climb Everest.
- who have just got married.
- whose parents used to work in a circus.

93.2

- 2 where we can have a really good meal
- where I can buy some postcards
- where we had the car repaired
- where John is staying
- where she (had) bought it

93.3

2 where

5 where

3 who.

6 whose

whose

7 whom

93.4

Example answers:

- 2 we got stuck in a lift
- 3 I didn't write to you
- you phoned
- 5 they haven't got a car
- 6 Mary got married

UNIT 94

- 3 which we enjoyed very much.
- 4 I went to see the doctor, who told me to rest for a few days.
- John, who/whom I have known for a very long time, is one of my closest friends.
- Sheila, whose job involves a lot of travelling, is away from home a
- The new stadium, which can hold 90,000 people, will be opened next month.
- We often go to visit our friends in Bristol, which is only 30 miles away.
- Glasgow, where my brother lives, is the largest city in Scotland.

- The strike at the car factory, which lasted ten days, is now over.
- I've found the book I was looking for. or ...the book that/which I was looking for.
- The population of London, which was once the largest city in the world, is now falling.
- 6 Few of the people who/that applied for the job had the necessary qualifications.
- Margaret showed me a photograph of her son, who is a policeman.

- 3 My office, which ... the building, is... (commas)
- 4 The office that/which... (no commas)
- She told me her address, which... (comma) There are some words
- that/which... (no commas) The sun, which ... in the universe, provides... (commas)
- UNIT 95

95.1

- This is a photograph of our friends, with whom we went on holiday. or ...who we went on holiday with.
- The wedding, to which only members of the family were invited, took place last Friday. or The wedding, which only members of the family were invited to, took place..
- Sheila, for whom we had been waiting, finally arrived. or Sheila, who we had been waiting for, finally arrived.

5 We climbed to the top of the tower, from which we had a beautiful view. or ...which we had a beautiful view from.

- 2 We were given a lot of information, most of which was useless.
- There were a lot of people at the party, only a few of whom I had met before.
- I have sent her two letters, neither of which she has received.
- Ten people applied for the job, none of whom were suitable.
- Kate has got two cars, one of which she hardly ever uses.
- Norman won £50,000, half of which he gave to his parents.
- Julia has two sisters, both of whom are teachers.

- 2 Jill isn't on the phone, which makes it difficult to contact her.
- Neil has passed his examinations, which is good news.
- 4 Our flight was delayed, which meant we had to wait four hours at the airport.
- Ann offered to let me stay in her house, which was very nice of her.
- The street I live in is very noisy at night, which makes it difficult to sleep.
- Our car has broken down, which means we can't go away tomorrow.

UNIT 96

- 2 I didn't talk much to the man sitting next to me on the plane.
- The taxi taking us to the airport broke down.
- 4 At the end of the street there is a path leading to the river.
- A new factory employing 500 people has just opened in the town. The company sent me a brochure
- containing all the information I needed.

- 2 The window broken in the storm last night has now been repaired.
- Most of the suggestions made at the meeting were not very practical.
- The paintings stolen from the museum haven't been found yet.
- What was the name of the man arrested by the police?