Adverbs

RELATIVE ADVERBS

Relative Adverbs

Relative adverbs introduce relative clauses.

The relative adverbs are *where*, *when* and *why*.

They can be used to join two smaller, but related, sentences.

They can replace *preposition + which* for a more informal text.

The rules for restrictive and non-restrictive relative clauses still apply.

Relative Adverbs – Examples #1

They can be used to join two smaller, but related, sentences.

➢ This is a swimming pool. I used to swim in the pool.

➢ This is the pool *where* I used to swim.

➢ I got home from work. I did the dishes.

➢ I did the dishes *when* I got home from work.

➢ Steve called me. I don't know the reason.

➢ I don't know (the reason) *why* Steve called me.

Relative Adverbs – Examples #2

They can replace *preposition + which* in formal text.

➢ That's the pub *in which* we first met.

➢ That's the pub *where* we first met.

➢ There was a bitterly cold winter the year *in which* he was born.

➢ There was a bitterly cold winter the year *when* he was born.

➢ I will tell you the reason *for which* Greg is sad.

➢ I will tell you (the reason) *why* Greg is sad.

Relative Adverbs – Examples #3

The rules for restrictive and non-restrictive relative clauses still apply.

Restrictive (or defining) clauses add essential information needed to identify a noun.

The sentence makes no sense when the clause is removed.

This type of clause does not require any commas.

Non-restrictive (or non-defining) clauses add extra information to a noun that has already been defined.

The sentence still makes sense when the clause is removed.

This type of clause requires commas around the clause.

Relative Adverbs – Examples #4

Restrictive (or defining) clauses add essential information.

➢ The pub *where* we first met is a special place.

➢ The pub is a special place.   (what pub? why?)

➢ The 70s were a time *when* many fashion sins were committed.

➢ The 70s were a time.   (what kind of time?)

➢ I don't know (the reason) *why* Paul was late.

➢ I don't know the reason.   (what reason? for what?)

Relative Adverbs – Examples #5

Non-restrictive (or non-defining) clauses add extra information.

➢ Munich, _where_ I used to live, is a fascinating city.

➢ Munich is a fascinating city.

➢ Summer, _when_ it is warm, is my favourite season.

➢ Summer is my favourite season.

Why cannot be used to introduce non-restrictive relative clauses.