

Relative clauses 1: clauses with **who/that/which**

A

Look at this example sentence:

The woman **who lives next door** is a doctor.

relative clause

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 the country** ... ('who live in the country' tells us what kind of people)

We use **who** in a relative clause when we are talking about people (not things):

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 the country

→ We know a lot of people **who live in the country**.

- ☐ An architect is someone **who designs buildings**.
- ☐ What was the name of the person **who phoned**?
- ☐ Anyone **who wants to apply for the job** must do so by Friday.

You can also use **that** (instead of **who**), but you can't use **which** for people:

- ☐ The woman **that lives next door** is a doctor. (*not* the woman **which**)

Sometimes you must use **who** (*not* that) for people – see Unit 95.

B

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

where is the cheese? – it was in the fridge

→ Where is the cheese **{ that / which }** was in the fridge?

- ☐ I don't like stories **that have unhappy endings**. (*or* stories **which** have ...)
- ☐ Grace works for a company **that makes furniture**. (*or* a company **which** makes furniture)
- ☐ The machine **that broke down** is working again now. (*or* The machine **which** broke down)

That is more usual than **which**, but sometimes you must use **which** – see Unit 95.

C

Remember that in relative clauses we use **who/that/which**, not **he/she/they/it**.

Compare:

- ☐ 'Who's that woman?' '**She** lives next door to me.'
- I've never spoken to the woman **who** lives next door. (*not* the woman **she** lives)
- ☐ Where is the cheese? **It** was in the fridge.
- Where is the cheese **that** was in the fridge? (*not* the cheese **it** was)

D

What = 'the thing(s) that'. Compare **what** and **that**:

- ☐ **What happened** was my fault. (= the thing that happened)

but

- ☐ Everything **that happened** was my fault. (*not* Everything **what** happened)
- ☐ The machine **that broke down** is now working again. (*not* The machine **what** broke down)

Exercises

92.1 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> steals from a shop designs buildings doesn't believe in God is not brave 	he/she	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> buys something from a shop pays rent to live in a house or apartment breaks into a house to steal things expects the worst to happen
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- (an architect) An architect is someone who designs buildings.
- (a burglar) A burglar is someone
- (a customer)
- (a shoplifter)
- (a coward)
- (an atheist)
- (a pessimist)
- (a tenant)

92.2 Make one sentence from two. Use **who/that/which**.

- A girl was injured in the accident. She is now in hospital.
The girl who was injured in the accident is now in hospital.
- A waitress served us. She was impolite and impatient.
The
- A building was destroyed in the fire. It has now been rebuilt.
The
- Some people were arrested. They have now been released.
The
- A bus goes to the airport. It runs every half hour.
The

92.3 Complete the sentences. Choose from the box and make a relative clause.

invented the telephone	makes furniture
runs away from home	gives you the meaning of words
stole my wallet	can support life
were hanging on the wall	cannot be explained

- Helen works for a company that makes furniture
- The book is about a girl
- What happened to the pictures ?
- A mystery is something
- The police have arrested the man
- A dictionary is a book
- Alexander Bell was the man
- It seems that Earth is the only planet

92.4 Are these sentences right or wrong? Correct them where necessary.

- I don't like stories who have unhappy endings. stories that have
- What was the name of the person who phoned? OK
- Where's the nearest shop who sells bread?
- The driver which caused the accident was fined £500.
- Do you know the person that took these pictures?
- We live in a world what is changing all the time.
- Dan said some things about me that were not true.
- What was the name of the horse it won the race?

A Whose

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

we helped some people – **their** car had broken down

→ We helped 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)
- ☐ 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)

B Whom

Whom is possible instead of **who** when it is the *object* of the verb in the relative clause (like the sentences in Unit 93B):

- ☐ George is a person **whom I admire** very much. (I admire **him**)

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

- ☐ I like the people **with whom I work**. (I work **with them**)

Whom is a formal word and we do not often use it in this way. We usually prefer **who** or **that**, or nothing (see Unit 93). So we usually say:

- ☐ ... a person **who/that** I admire a lot or ... a person **I admire** a lot
- ☐ ... the people **who/that** I work with or ... the people **I work with**

C Where

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

the restaurant – we had lunch **there** – it was near the airport

→ The restaurant **where we had lunch** was near the airport.

- ☐ I recently went back to **the town where I grew up**.
(or ... the town I grew up in or ... the town **that** I grew up in)
- ☐ I would like to live in **a place where there is plenty of sunshine**.

D We say:

the day / the year / the time etc. { something happens or
that something happens

- ☐ I can't meet you on Friday. That's **the day (that) I'm going away**.
- ☐ **The last time (that) I saw Anna**, she looked great.
- ☐ I haven't seen Jack and Helen since **the year (that) they got married**.

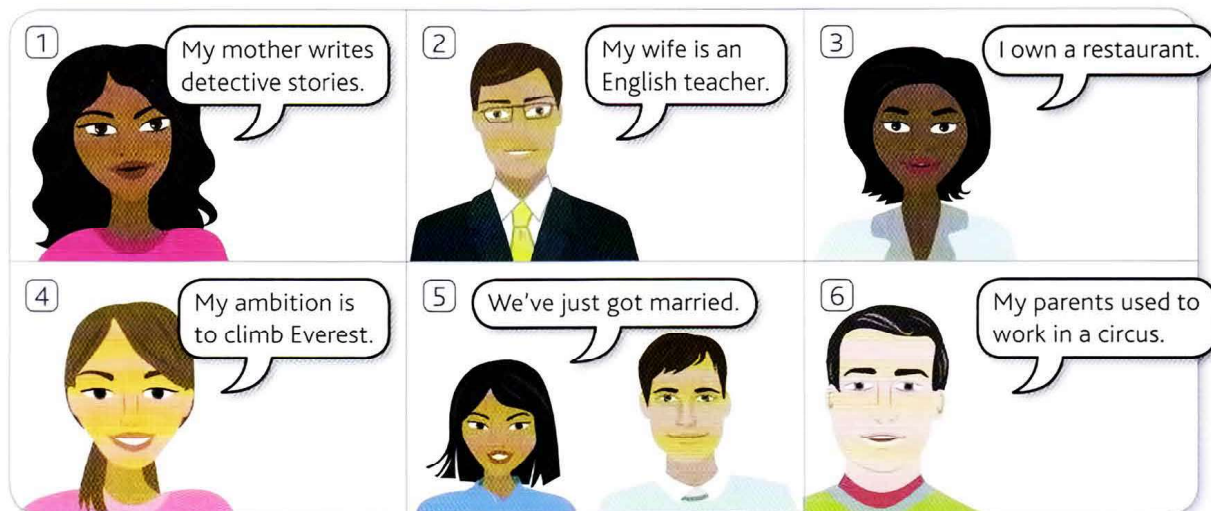
E We say:

the reason { something happens or
that/why something happens

- ☐ **The reason I'm phoning** is to ask your advice.
(or The reason that I'm phoning / The reason **why** I'm phoning)

Exercises

94.1 You met these people at a party:



The next day you tell a friend about these people. Complete the sentences using **who** or **whose**.

- 1 I met somebody whose mother writes detective stories
- 2 I met a man
- 3 I met a woman
- 4 I met somebody
- 5 I met a couple
- 6 I met somebody

94.2 Read the situations and complete the sentences using **where**.

- 1 You grew up in a small town. You went back there recently. You tell someone this.
I recently went back to the small town where I grew up
- 2 You're thirsty and you want a drink. You ask a friend where you can get some water.
Is there a shop near here
- 3 You work in a factory. The factory is going to close down next month. You tell a friend.
The is going to close down next month.
- 4 Sue is staying at a hotel. You want to know the name of the hotel. You ask a friend.
Do you know the name of
- 5 You play football in a park on Sundays. You show a friend the park. You say:
This is the on Sundays.

94.3 Complete each sentence using **who/whom/whose/where**.

- 1 What's the name of the man whose car you borrowed?
- 2 A cemetery is a place people are buried.
- 3 A pacifist is a person believes that all wars are wrong.
- 4 An orphan is a child parents are dead.
- 5 What was the name of the person to you spoke on the phone?
- 6 The place we spent our holidays was really beautiful.
- 7 This school is only for children first language is not English.
- 8 The woman with he fell in love left him after a month.

94.4 Use your own ideas to complete these sentences. They are like the examples in Sections D and E.

- 1 I can't meet you on Friday. That's the day I'm going away
- 2 The reason was that the salary was too low.
- 3 I'll never forget the time
- 4 Do you remember the day
- 5 The reason is that they don't need one.
- 6 was the year

Key to Exercises

90.4

- 2 every day
- 3 all day
- 4 The whole building
- 5 every time
- 6 all the time
- 7 all my luggage

UNIT 91

91.1

- | | |
|---------|---------|
| 3 Each | 6 every |
| 4 Every | 7 each |
| 5 Each | 8 every |

91.2

- | | |
|---------|----------|
| 3 Every | 8 every |
| 4 Each | 9 each |
| 5 every | 10 Every |
| 6 every | 11 each |
| 7 each | 12 each |

91.3

- 2 Sonia and I had ten pounds each. / Sonia and I each had ten pounds.
- 3 Those postcards cost 80 pence each. / Those postcards are 80 pence each.
- 4 We paid £150 each. / We each paid £150.

91.4

- 2 everyone
- 3 every one
- 4 Everyone
- 5 every one

UNIT 92

92.1

- 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 pessimist is someone who expects the worst to happen.
- 8 A tenant is someone who pays rent to live in a house or apartment.

92.2

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

92.3

- 2 **who/that** runs away from home
- 3 **that/which** were hanging on the wall
- 4 **that/which** cannot be explained
- 5 **who/that** stole my wallet
- 6 **that/which** gives you the meaning of words
- 7 **who/that** invented the telephone
- 8 **that/which** can support life

92.4

- 3 the nearest shop **that/which** sells
- 4 the driver **who/that** caused
- 5 OK (the person **who** took *is also correct*)
- 6 a world **that/which** is changing
- 7 OK (some things about me **which** were *is also correct*)
- 8 the horse **that/which** won

UNIT 93

93.1

- 3 OK (the people **who/that** we met *is also correct*)
- 4 The people **who** work in the office
- 5 OK (the people **who/that** I work with *is also correct*)
- 6 OK (the money **that/which** I gave you *is also correct*)
- 7 the money **that/which** was on the table
- 8 OK (the worst film **that/which** you've ever seen *is also correct*)
- 9 the best thing **that/which** has ever happened to you

93.2

- 2 you're wearing *or* **that/which** you're wearing
- 3 you're going to see *or* **that/which** you're going to see
- 4 I/we wanted to visit *or* **that/which** I/we wanted to visit
- 5 I/we invited to the party *or* **who/whom/that** we invited ...
- 6 you had to do *or* **that/which** you had to do
- 7 I/we rented *or* **that/which** I/we rented

93.3

- 2 the wedding we were invited to
- 3 the hotel you told me about
- 4 the job I applied for
- 5 the concert you went to
- 6 somebody you can rely on
- 7 the man you were with

93.4

- 3 – (that *is also correct*)
- 4 what
- 5 that
- 6 what
- 7 – (that *is also correct*)
- 8 what
- 9 – (that *is also correct*)

UNIT 94

94.1

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

94.2

- 2 where I can get some water
- 3 (The) factory where I work
- 4 the hotel where Sue is staying
- 5 (the) park where I/we play football

94.3

- | | |
|---------|---------|
| 2 where | 6 where |
| 3 who | 7 whose |
| 4 whose | 8 whom |
| 5 whom | |

94.4

Example answers:

- 2 The reason I left my job was that the salary was very low.
- 3 I'll never forget the time I got stuck in a lift.
- 4 Do you remember the day we first met?
- 5 The reason they don't have a car is that they don't need one.
- 6 2003 was the year Amanda got married.

UNIT 95

95.1

- 3 We often go to visit our friends in Cambridge, which is not far from London.
- 4 I went to see the doctor, who told me I needed to change my diet.
- 5 Steven, **who/whom** I've known for a very long time, is one of my closest friends.
- 6 Lisa, whose job involves a lot of travelling, is away from home a lot.
- 7 The new stadium, which can hold 90,000 people, will be finished next month.
- 8 Alaska, where my brother lives, is the largest state in the USA.
- 9 Our teacher, whose name I have forgotten, was very kind.