Relative Clauses

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Understanding Relative Clauses

Definition

A relative clause is a type of dependent clause that provides additional information about a noun. It usually begins with a relative pronoun such as who, whom, whose, which, or that. Relative clauses help combine sentences and add more detail without starting a new sentence.

Purpose

Relative clauses are used to connect ideas and provide more information about a noun in the sentence. They help make sentences clearer and more informative.

Examples

- 1. I have a friend who is a doctor.
- 2. The book that I borrowed from the library is very interesting.
- 3. She wore the dress which she bought last week.
- 4. The man whose car was stolen reported it to the police.

Structure of a Relative Clause

Relative clauses usually follow the noun they modify and start with a relative pronoun. The structure is: Noun

+ Relative Pronoun + Clause.

Relative Clauses

Types of Relative Clauses

1. Defining Relative Clause - Gives essential information about the noun.

Example: The student who studies hard will succeed.

2. Non-defining Relative Clause - Gives extra information (set off with commas).

Example: My brother, who lives in Canada, is visiting us next week.