

Note: Spoken versus written English:

Non-defining relative clauses which are in the middle of a sentence are quite formal and are more commonly used in written English than in spoken English. In spoken English, we usually prefer to use shorter sentences or to link clauses together with simple conjunctions. For example, in written English, we may write:

Ann Roberts, whose first job was in this department, has just been appointed Director.

but in spoken English, we are more likely to say something like:

Ann Roberts has just been appointed Director. Do you remember? Her first job was here in this department.

Practice

58a In your notebook, rewrite the sentences making the second sentence into a non-defining relative clause and putting it into the correct place.

- 1 When I was in town, I met your sister. She was shopping for some clothes.
When I was in town, I met your sister, who was shopping for some clothes.
- 2 Their house needs a lot of work doing to it. It is near the beach.
- 3 Sandra's just got a new job with Capital Insurers. It's a much better company than the last one she worked for.
- 4 The new manager seems to be a very capable woman. I met her last week.



- 5 This case is full of books. I carried it all the way from the station.
- 6 The Games International Company has just gone bankrupt. We have done business with them for many years.
- 7 The hospital has handed out redundancy notices to all its staff. It is due to close down next year.
- 8 The prisoners are requesting more time out of their cells. Their families are campaigning on their behalf.
- 9 The new government is now facing major problems. It came to power with a lot of public support.
- 10 Her latest novel is really good. I read it on holiday.
- 11 The Home Affairs Minister is suspected of being involved in a financial scandal. The opposition have accused the minister of lying.
- 12 The Education Department is changing its policy on single sex schools. Mrs Parkinson is in charge of the department.
- 13 The Lilley and Swan department store has made reductions on most of its goods. The store has a sale on at the moment.

- 14 The principal actor could hardly speak last night due to a sore throat. He normally has a wonderful voice.
- 15 The sales manager is planning a new advertising campaign. I support her ideas.

58b Use the sentences in the box to make non-defining relative clauses. Insert an appropriate clause into each of the sentences.

Her books are read all over the world.
 It was very crowded.
 We love to walk round them.
~~It is very powerful.~~
 He is staying in a nursing home.
 I like her very much.
 He is staying in his holiday home in Scotland at the moment.
 Her parents believed it.
 She came over to apologize to us.
 I always attend her lectures.

- 1 This new drug could have bad side effects.
This new drug, which is very powerful, could have bad side effects.
- 2 Her father is said to be dying of cancer.

- 3 The Prime Minister said that he was very saddened by the news of the air crash.

- 4 The story she gave was that she had not realized how late it was.

- 5 Agatha Christie was a very prolific writer.

- 6 The sub-tropical gardens are open all year round.

- 7 The manager of the restaurant said that she was very sorry about the undercooked fish.

8 Our Professor of Psychology has written some very interesting books.

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9 We packed a picnic and walked down to the beach.

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10 Next Saturday, I'm going to visit my Auntie Sheila.

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59 Defining and non-defining relative clauses

Check

59 Underline all the relative clauses in the following article.

POETRY AND THE WAR

One of the most extraordinary things about the First World War was the enthusiasm with which the majority of soldiers went off to fight for their country. Those young, patriotic men, who rushed to the enlistment centres, had no idea what lay ahead of them. They did not know that they would live for months in holes they had dug in the mud. They did not know what it would be like to watch a friend who had been horribly injured die a painful death. And so they were excited, even thrilled, about the prospect of going to war.

This was the first war in which the image-makers made an impact. There were posters which asked women to encourage their men to go to war: 'If he does not think that you and your country are worth fighting for – do you think he is WORTHY of you?'

The mood which seized the country was one of patriotic and heroic struggle. At the same time, it was generally believed that it would all be over in a few months.

The war fever which gripped the nation stirred up the emotions of everyone and there was a huge growth in the writing of poetry. At first the poems were proud and optimistic: 'Now in thy splendour go before us Spirit of England', but as the war dragged on, the writers of poetry became angry at the myths they had been told. They wanted people to know about the horrible reality of war, which brutalized the people who took part.

One writer who put these feelings into words very effectively was Wilfrid Owen, who, in the poem Anthem for Doomed Youth, wrote 'What passing bells for these who die as cattle?' The poetry of Wilfrid Owen, Siegfried Sassoon, Robert Graves and others, which described the horrific reality of war, also questioned its morality. Many of the poets were wealthy, privileged men who had not at first been anti-war, but whose attitudes were changed by what they saw.