

## 2.4 Prepositions in relative clauses

### START POINT

These early radio systems could only be used for Morse code, **in which** each letter of the alphabet is represented by a combination of dots and dashes. (= These early radio systems could only be used for Morse code. In Morse code, each letter of the alphabet is represented by a combination of dots and dashes.)

A preposition usually comes before the relative pronoun in formal styles:

In 1901 Marconi made **the announcement** **for which** he will always be remembered.

After a preposition we usually use **whom** rather than **who** in formal styles:

**Augusto Righi**, **with whom** Marconi studied in the 1890s, was a physicist. or

**Augusto Righi**, **whom** Marconi studied **with** in the 1890s, was a physicist.

A preposition usually comes at the end of the clause in less formal styles:

In 1901, Marconi made **the announcement** **which** he will always be remembered **for**.

**Augusto Righi**, **who** Marconi studied **with** in the 1890s, was a physicist.

We can use **of which** and **of whom** (or very informally **of who**) after **all**, **both**, **each**, **many**, **most**, **neither**, **part**, **several**, **some**; a number (e.g. **one**, **the first**, **half**) and superlatives:

**Radio entertainers**, **many of whom** became household names, were highly paid.

We can use a preposition, usually **from**, with **where** and **when**:

Marconi set up **a transmission station in Cornwall**, **from where** the first transatlantic radio message was sent.

## Grammar exercises

### 3.1 Match the sentence halves and join them with one of the words in the box.

when   where   which   whose   why

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1 The new factory will be located in an area                   | a job it is to maintain standards in television programmes.      |
| 2 The photograph reminded him of the time                      | b he used to live in Thailand.                                   |
| 3 Any complaints should be sent to the Broadcasting Regulator, | c talented students can complete their degree in only two years. |
| 4 I couldn't see any reason                                    | d Irina should be offended by my letter.                         |
| 5 The university has introduced an initiative in               | e there are high levels of unemployment.                         |
- 1 The new factory will be located in an area where there are high levels of unemployment.

**3.2** Underline all the possible relative pronouns that can complete each sentence. ('-' means that the sentence is correct with no relative pronoun.) If there is more than one possible answer, decide which one(s) are less formal.

- 1 The new drug should be of benefit for anyone \_\_\_\_\_ suffers from severe back pain.  
A who                      B -                      C which                      D that 'that' is less formal than 'who'
- 2 Did the committee \_\_\_\_\_ took the decision on the new housing estate meet local protestors?  
A -                      B which                      C who                      D whom
- 3 The wallpaper, \_\_\_\_\_ is available in a number of colours, is based on an eighteenth-century design.  
A which                      B that                      C -                      D who
- 4 Howard Stevens was one of the artists \_\_\_\_\_ Carlson worked with in his youth.  
A whom                      B -                      C which                      D who
- 5 Conservationists have called for a programme to eliminate the rats \_\_\_\_\_ are killing seabirds on the island.  
A that                      B -                      C which                      D whom
- 6 A government spokesperson, \_\_\_\_\_ did not wish to be named, said that there had been a major disagreement between the Prime Minister and the Finance Minister.  
A which                      B that                      C who                      D -
- 7 Were the coins \_\_\_\_\_ he dug up worth a lot of money?  
A who                      B -                      C that                      D which
- 8 He was survived by his wife Anastasia, \_\_\_\_\_ he married in 1936.  
A whom                      B that                      C -                      D who

**3.3** Complete these sentences with an appropriate preposition.

- 1 There were many excellent matches in the World Cup, the best \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ which, in my view, was France against Brazil in the semi-final.
- 2 There were criticisms of the way \_\_\_\_\_ which the election was conducted.
- 3 We climbed to the top of the mountain, \_\_\_\_\_ where it is possible to see three countries.
- 4 She has recently published a collection of short stories, most \_\_\_\_\_ which first appeared in the London Literary Magazine.
- 5 They showed enormous kindness to me, \_\_\_\_\_ which I will always be grateful.
- 6 The Red Spider has spread rapidly \_\_\_\_\_ when it was spotted in the country in 2005.
- 7 He was married in 1253 to a woman named Purcelle, \_\_\_\_\_ whom nothing more is known.
- 8 We're trying to speed up the process \_\_\_\_\_ which decisions are made in the company.

**3.4** Complete the sentences using a phrase from A, a relative word or phrase from B and a phrase from C.  
Write the letters in the spaces.

**A**

- a a Muslim doctor
- b a narrow piece of wood at the end of a swimming pool
- c housing for old and ill people
- d women's narrow trousers
- e an early period in human history
- f a person or company

**B**

- g whose
- h from which
- i when
- j which
- k where
- l who

**C**

- m end just below the knee.
- n people made tools and weapons only out of stone then.
- o job is to organise the sending of goods from one place to another.
- p help can be given if it is needed.
- q uses traditional methods to treat people.
- r people can dive.

1 Sheltered accommodation: c + k + p

2 A diving board: \_\_\_\_\_ + \_\_\_\_\_ + \_\_\_\_\_

3 Capri pants: \_\_\_\_\_ + \_\_\_\_\_ + \_\_\_\_\_

4 A shipper: \_\_\_\_\_ + \_\_\_\_\_ + \_\_\_\_\_

5 A hakim: \_\_\_\_\_ + \_\_\_\_\_ + \_\_\_\_\_

6 The Stone Age: \_\_\_\_\_ + \_\_\_\_\_ + \_\_\_\_\_

1 Sheltered accommodation is housing for old and ill people where help can be given if it is needed.