

Relative clauses 4: extra information clauses (1)

A

There are two types of relative clause. In these examples, the relative clauses are underlined. Compare:

Type 1

- The woman who lives next door is a doctor.
- Grace works for a company that makes furniture.
- We stayed at the hotel (that) you recommended.

In these examples, the relative clauses tell you which person or thing (or what kind of person or thing) the speaker means:

'The woman **who lives next door**' tells us *which* woman.

'A company **that makes furniture**' tells us *what kind* of company.

'The hotel **(that) you recommended**' tells us *which* hotel.

We do not use commas (,) with these clauses:

- We know a lot of people who live in London.

Type 2

- My brother Ben, who lives in Hong Kong, is an architect.
- Anna told me about her new job, which she's enjoying a lot.
- We stayed at the Park Hotel, which a friend of ours recommended.

In these examples, the relative clauses do not tell you which person or thing the speaker means. We already know which thing or person is meant: 'My brother Ben', 'Anna's new job' and 'the Park Hotel'.

The relative clauses in these sentences give us *extra information* about the person or thing.

We use commas (,) with these clauses:

- My brother Ben, who lives in Hong Kong, is an architect.

B

In both types of relative clause we use **who** for people and **which** for things. But:

Type 1

You can use **that**:

- Do you know anyone **who/that** speaks French and Italian?
- Grace works for a company **which/that** makes furniture.

You can leave out **who/which/that** when it is the object (see Unit 93):

- We stayed at the hotel (that/which) you recommended.
- This morning I met somebody (who/that) I hadn't seen for ages.

We do not often use **whom** in this type of clause (see Unit 94B).

Type 2

You cannot use **that**:

- John, **who** (*not that*) speaks French and Italian, works as a tour guide.
- Anna told me about her new job, **which** (*not that*) she's enjoying a lot.

You cannot leave out **who** or **which**:

- We stayed at the Park Hotel, **which** a friend of ours recommended.
- This morning I met Chris, **who** I hadn't seen for ages.

You can use **whom** for people (when it is the object):

- This morning I met Chris, **whom** I hadn't seen for ages.

C

In both types of relative clause you can use **whose** and **where**:

- We met some people **whose** car had broken down.
- What's the name of the place **where** you went on holiday?
- Lisa, **whose** car had broken down, was in a very bad mood.
- Kate has just been to Sweden, **where** her daughter lives.

95.1 Make one sentence from two. Use the sentence in brackets to make a relative clause (Type 2).

You will need to use **who(m)/whose/which/where**.

- 1 Catherine is very friendly. (She lives next door.)
Catherine, who lives next door, is very friendly.
- 2 We stayed at the Park Hotel. (A friend of ours recommended it.)
We stayed at the Park Hotel, which a friend of ours recommended.
- 3 We often go to visit our friends in Cambridge. (It is not far from London.)
We often go to visit our friends in Cambridge.
- 4 I went to see the doctor. (She told me I needed to change my diet.)
I went to see
- 5 Steven is one of my closest friends. (I have known him for a very long time.)
Steven
- 6 Lisa is away from home a lot. (Her job involves a lot of travelling.)
Lisa
- 7 The new stadium will be finished next month. (It can hold 90,000 people.)
- 8 Alaska is the largest state in the USA. (My brother lives there.)
- 9 Our teacher was very kind. (I have forgotten her name.)

95.2 Read the information and complete each sentence. Use a relative clause of Type 1 or Type 2.

Use commas where necessary.

- 1 There's a woman living next door to me. She's a doctor.
The woman who lives next door to me is a doctor.
- 2 I've got a brother called Ben. He lives in Hong Kong. He's an architect.
My brother Ben, who lives in Hong Kong, is an architect.
- 3 There was a strike at the factory. It began ten days ago. It is now over.
The strike at the factory
- 4 I was looking for a book this morning. I've found it now.
I've found
- 5 I've had my car for 15 years. It has never broken down.
My car
- 6 A job was advertised. A lot of people applied for it. Few of them had the necessary qualifications.
Few of
- 7 Amy has a son. She showed me a picture of him. He's a police officer.
Amy showed me

95.3 Some of these sentences are wrong. Correct them and put in commas where necessary. If the sentence is correct, write 'OK'.

- 1 Anna told me about her new job that she's enjoying very much.
Anna told me about her new job, which she's enjoying very much.
- 2 My office that is on the second floor is very small.
- 3 The office I'm using at the moment is very small.
- 4 Mark's father that used to be in the army now works for a TV company.
- 5 The doctor that examined me couldn't find anything wrong.
- 6 The sun that is one of millions of stars in the universe provides us with heat and light.