

## Relative Clauses (*sentences*)

### A. Subject or object

#### 1- Subject and Object

Relative clauses give extra information about a noun in the main clause.

They can refer to this as subject or object.

That's the woman <b>who</b> bought my car.	The <b>woman</b> (Subject) bought my car.
<b>That's</b> the car ( <b>that</b> ) I used to own.	I used to own <b>the car</b> (Object).

#### 2- Combining Sentences

Relative clauses are used to avoid repetition, by combining sentences.

<b>Subject:</b> This is Jean. Jean/She bought my car Jean is the person <b>who</b> bought my car.	Jean/She is not repeated, as the person is the subject
<b>Object:</b> That is Jean's car. I used to own it/the car. That's the car <b>that</b> I used to own.	It is not repeated, as the car is the object.

### B. Defining or non-defining

#### 1- Defining *especificativas*

Defining clauses give important information which tells us exactly what is being referred to.

*'That book **which/that** you lent me, is really good'*

#### 2- Non-defining *explicativas*

Non-defining clauses add extra information, **separated by commas in writing**, and intonation in speaking.

*'The book, which I hadn't read, was still on the shelf'*

*Mercury, which is a metal, has the symbol Hg - ~~The mercury which is a metal,~~ has the symbol Hg*

### C. Omitting the relative pronoun

#### 1- Object clauses

The relative pronoun **can be left out**, **in both speaking and writing**, in defining clauses.

*'**That's** the car (that/which) I used to own'*

#### D. Which, who and that

##### 1- That instead of which

That is often used **instead** of which (**in speech**).

*'Is this the house **that** you bought?'*

##### 2- That instead of who

That can also refer to people in **everyday speech**.

*'Have you met the boy (**that**) Sue is going to marry?'*

##### 3- Which in non-defining clauses

That **cannot** be used to **introduce a non-defining clause** (that is, between commas).

*'The hotel, **which** was a hundred years old, was very comfortable'*

##### 4- Prepositions

That **cannot** be used **directly after a preposition**.

*'This is the car (**that/which**) I paid £2000 for.'*

*'This is the car **for which** I paid £2000.'*

**PREP + which** 120km/h is the maximum speed \_\_\_\_\_ you can drive in a highway

### Prep+relative or Pronoun

The house **in which/where** I live is small

The discussion reached a point **at/in which/where** there was no possible agreement

### E. Whose and whom

#### 1- Whose means 'of which'.

'This is Jack. His sister is staying with us'----- 'This is Jack, whose sister is staying with us'

*Mercury, **whose** symbol is Hg, is (a) liquid at room temperature*

*Mercury, **the symbol of which** is Hg, is (a) liquid at room temperature*

#### 2- Whom is the 'object form of who', and has to be used **after prepositions**.

*'This is the person (who) I sold my car to'*

*'This is the person **to whom** I sold my car*

*Who have you invited to your party? – To whom have you invited...*

### SHORTENED RELATIVE CLAUSES

(active voice)-**ING**

(passive voice)-**ED**

**SHORTENED RELATIVE CLAUSES** are very common in technical texts.

Relative clauses can **ONLY** be shortened when the Relative Pronoun is the **SUBJECT** of the relative clause. There are two possibilities:

-When the verb in the Relative clause is in the passive voice = **VB-ED**

Aluminium is a metal **that/which is produced** from bauxite =>

Aluminium is a metal **PRODUCED** from bauxite.

-When the verb in the Relative clause is in the active voice = **VB-ING**:

A tangent is a straight line **that/which touches** a curve. =>

A tangent is a straight line **TOUCHING** a curve

Tin is a metal **Which/that BELONGS** to the carbon group

**BELONGING**

The triangle **Which/that IS SURROUNDED** by the circle is the nucleus

**SURROUNDED**

The circle **Which/that SURROUNDS** the triangle has electrons

**SURROUNDING**

Steel, **WHICH CONSISTS OF** iron and carbon, is a very strong material

Steel, **CONSISTING OF** iron and carbon, is a very strong material

### 'WHICH' AND 'WHAT'

Which is **always related** to something said earlier. What doesn't need any reference

*Mercury, which is a liquid...*

*He got the job, which was good news for everybody*

*What she said was stupid*

*We can use what is known as a photovoltaic cell.*

*We use a pv cell, which collects sunlight...*

### THAT has 4 main uses: (+1)

(+Demonstrative adjective)

- Relative pronoun (THAT or WHICH) : e.g. *The materials (THAT /WHICH are) used in structures must be very strong*
- Conjunction: THAT (after vbs such as TO SAY, TO STATE, TO KNOW). E.g. *She said THAT it was raining*
- Pronoun (= THE ONE(S) usually with adjectives): THAT / THOSE. They are generally used in comparative constructions and are normally followed by preposition or shortened relative clause (THAT/THOSE + Rel Clause or Prepositional phrase = el(los) que // el(los)de :

*I like the blue bag but not the RED ONE*

*The density of iron is higher than THAT OF/the one of zinc – 'the density of' is not repeated*

*The results are better than THOSE/the ones presented last year – 'the results' is not repeated*

*The properties of alloys are better than those/the ones OF their components – 'the properties' is not repeated*

*I have two articles. I think I'll read that/the one about materials first*

