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## Defining and non-defining relative clauses

Relative clauses, clauses of purpose, result, reason, concession and contrast

### TeenLink

#### When Lightning Strikes ...

by Harry Davis



Although we don't expect them, thunderstorms are quite common in spring and summer. Despite lasting a short time, thunderstorms are dangerous because they produce lightning, which can kill.

If you see lightning, which is a flash of light, and can hear thunder, which is a loud rumbling noise, you are so close to the storm that you might be in danger. Go to a safe place immediately, such as a house or a car. Whatever you do, don't stand under a tree. Trees attract lightning and it is not safe to shelter under them because of this.

Don't use the telephone or anything electrical because if lightning hits, it can travel through the electrical wires. It can travel through water, too, so don't take a bath or a shower. Swimming in the sea is also dangerous.

### 1 Complete the tables.

#### Defining relative clauses

<b>who / that</b>	The young man who / ..... spoke to me was Brian Williams. The girl (..... / that) you are talking about is my sister.
<b>which / that</b>	The dog which / ..... appears in the advert belongs to my friend. The house (..... / that) they've bought used to be a gallery.
<b>whose</b>	The girl ..... turn had come for an audition said she wasn't ready.
<b>where</b>	This is the spot ..... we should plant the tree.
<b>when</b>	December is the month ..... the shop is busiest.

#### Non-defining relative clauses

<b>who</b>	Frank Campbell, ..... directed the film, will not be there for the premiere.
<b>which</b>	This portrait, ..... was painted by Henri Matisse, belonged to my great-grandmother.
<b>whose</b>	Mr Smith, ..... son was getting married, invited us to the wedding.
<b>where</b>	She's going to visit Glasgow, ..... she has relatives.
<b>when</b>	They moved house in 2001, ..... their baby was born.



2

**Read the information.****Relative clauses**

We use relative clauses to give more information about a noun in the main sentence.

*The man answered the phone.* (main clause)

*The man was my dad.*

(information about the subject of the main clause)

*The man who answered the phone was my dad.*

(relative clause)

**Relative pronouns**

We use relative pronouns in the beginning of a relative clause. Relative pronouns refer to a noun in the main sentence and they come directly after it. Here's a list of relative pronouns:

- *who* for people
- *whom* for people
- *which* for things or animals
- *that* for people, animals or things
- *whose* for people, animals or things
- *where* for places
- *when* for time

*The customer who bought the TV left his credit card behind.*

*The house which had stood at the top of the cliff was gone.*

*The town where I grew up is very small.*

**Defining relative clauses**

Defining relative clauses give essential information about the noun they refer to. Without them, the main clause doesn't make sense. Look at the example:

*The people are very noisy.* (main sentence)

*They live in the flat above ours.*

(essential information)

The main clause doesn't make sense unless we define who we are talking about.

This information comes in the relative clause.

*The people who live in the flat above us are very noisy.*

- We place a defining relative clause directly after the noun it defines, without using a comma to separate them.

*The woman who had found the lost cat was happy to return it to its owner.*

- When we speak we prefer to use *that* instead of *who* or *which*.

*What's the title of the song that is playing now?*

- When the relative pronoun (*whom*, *which*, *that*) is the object of the relative clause, we usually leave it out.

*The book is very good.* (main clause)

*You gave me this book.* (*this book* is the object)

*The book (that) you gave me is very good.*

- We never leave out the relative pronoun if it refers to the subject of the main clause.

*The book is very good.* (main clause)

*The book won the prize.* (*the book* is the subject)

*The book that won the prize is very good.*

**Non-defining relative clauses**

- Non-defining relative clauses give us extra information about the noun to which they refer. The information is not essential because the main clause is complete without it.

*Tom Davis is a well-known writer.* (main clause)

*Tom Davis is Harry's uncle.*

(extra information about the subject of the main clause)

*Tom Davis, who is Harry's uncle, is a well-known writer.*

- We place a non-defining relative clause directly after the noun it defines. We use commas to separate the non-defining clause from the main clause.
- We never leave out the relative pronoun in a non-defining relative clause.
- We don't use the relative pronoun *that* in non-defining relative clauses.

*Mr Brown's car, which was parked illegally, was taken away.*

*Sandra, whom you met last night, is a doctor.*



**3 Complete with a relative pronoun. If you have two options, write both of them.**

- 1 Did you eat the cake which / that ..... was on the table?
- 2 Steven, ..... had never been to the zoo before, was delighted.
- 3 The teacher introduced us to the new student, ..... we had already met.
- 4 Mary's wearing the dress ..... I bought for her for her birthday.
- 5 The man ..... luggage had been lost made a complaint to the airline.
- 6 Is this the house ..... Charles Dickens lived?
- 7 The woman ..... spoke to me was very rude!
- 8 That was the day ..... Oliver got his driver's licence.
- 9 PJ Rivo, ..... real name is John Smith, stars in a new film.
- 10 Manchester is the town ..... most of Ian's family live.

**4 Cross out the relative pronoun where it can be omitted.**

- 1 The printer ~~which~~ I bought last month has broken down.
- 2 I'm reading the book which you gave me.
- 3 The man who plays the electric guitar in this group is my cousin.
- 4 The woman whose bag had been stolen went to the police.
- 5 In the safari park, the lion that was nearest to our car tried to jump on it.
- 6 A man whom I had never seen before was sitting in my kitchen.
- 7 George knows someone who can help us.
- 8 The T-shirt that he's wearing is mine.
- 9 Is this the boy whose brother won the competition?
- 10 The girl that he has brought with him is a relative.

**Look!**

**Whose** is never omitted from the relative clause.

**5 Join the sentences. Make the second sentence a defining relative clause.**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 The pizza is great. You have made the pizza.<br><u>The pizza (which / that) you have made is great.</u> | 5 The day finally came. Brian learned how to use the Internet.<br>.....   |
| 2 The people were friendly. They've moved next door to us.<br>.....                                       | 6 The cottage was very comfortable. We spent our holidays there.<br>..... |
| 3 I know a girl. Her father is a professional footballer.<br>.....  | 7 The phone number is wrong. William gave it to me.<br>.....              |
| 4 The man is Jenny's coach. He was talking to my dad.<br>.....  | 8 This is the CD. I was telling you about it.<br>.....                    |

**6 Read and put commas where necessary.**

- 1 The man who delivered the parcel asked me to sign for it.
- 2 Samantha who had taken French lessons for two years could speak the language much better than us.
- 3 That's the building where my dad works.
- 4 Their garden which I can see from my bedroom window is the prettiest in the neighbourhood.
- 5 Kenneth who knew the area very well gave us directions.
- 6 Have you seen the book that Ron gave me?
- 7 Early in the morning when everyone is still asleep Mary gets up and takes the dog for a walk.

**Look!**

To decide if a relative clause is defining or non-defining, read the main clause on its own. If it makes sense, then the relative clause is non-defining. If you think some information is missing, or it doesn't make sense, then the relative clause is defining.



**7 Join the sentences. Make the second sentence a non-defining relative clause.**

- 1 There are two chairs in the garden shed. You can use them if you like.  
*There are two chairs in the garden shed, which you can use if you like.*
- 2 Paul looked very scruffy. He was wearing an old T-shirt and shorts.
- 3 The little girl smiled at me. I had just met her grandmother.
- 4 My aunt has a pony, two dogs and three cats. She lives in Cornwall.
- 5 Edinburgh is a beautiful city. I was born there.
- 6 The café was by the sea. It had a lovely view.
- 7 The school concert was a success. It was organised by the two music teachers.
- 8 Fred can speak fluent Spanish. He lived in Madrid for five years.
- 9 2004 was a lucky year for him. He won the lottery then.
- 10 Her new album isn't as good as the last one. It came out a few days ago.

**8 Join the sentences. Make the second sentence a defining or non-defining relative clause.**

## TeenLink

### Your questions answered!

What's wakeboarding?

Jess, 11

*1 Wakeboarding, which is a water sport, is a combination of water-skiing and surfing.*

What's a herbivore?

Timothy, 10

*2 ..... Just so that you know, <sup>3</sup> ..... and <sup>4</sup> .....*

How did the Dead Sea get its name?

Marianne, 12

*5 .....  
6 .....*

*If there is no kind of life then it is a 'dead' sea. That's how it got its name.*

*I've often heard of safari parks, but what are they exactly?*

Jon, 11 and a half

*7 .....  
Visitors can drive their cars along special roads to see them.*



*8 ..... It is not wise to get out of the safety of their car!*

- 1 Wakeboarding is a combination of water skiing and surfing. It is a water sport.
- 2 A herbivore is an animal. It only eats plants.
- 3 A carnivore is an animal. It eats only meat.
- 4 A omnivore is an animal. It eats plants and meat.
- 5 The Dead Sea has 30% salt in its water. It is really a lake.
- 6 The Dead Sea has no plants or animals. They can't live in such salty waters.
- 7 A safari park is an area. Animals are kept in their natural environment.
- 8 People should be careful, though. They want to take photographs.



9

## Complete the tables.

## Clauses of purpose, result, reason, concession, contrast

## Clauses of purpose

<b>to</b>	I've bought some apples ..... make an apple pie.
<b>in order to</b>	I've bought some apples in ..... to make an apple pie.
<b>so that</b>	I've bought some apples ..... that we can make an apple pie.

## Clauses of result

<b>so</b>	The day was hot, ..... they decided to go for a swim.
<b>so... that</b>	The day was ..... hot that they decided to go for a swim.
<b>such... that</b>	It was such a hot day ..... they decided to go for a swim.

## Clauses of reason

<b>because</b>	The concert was cancelled ..... there was a thunderstorm.
<b>because of</b>	The concert was cancelled because ..... the thunderstorm.

## Clauses of concession

<b>but</b>	I felt tired, ..... I decided to go to my cousin's party.
<b>however</b>	I felt tired. ...., I decided to go to my cousin's party.
<b>although</b>	..... I felt tired, I decided to go to my cousin's party.
<b>in spite of</b>	..... spite of feeling tired, I decided to go to my cousin's party.
<b>despite</b>	..... feeling tired, I decided to go to my cousin's party.

## Clauses of contrast

<b>while</b>	Tom is very energetic, ..... Sam likes to do things slowly.
<b>whereas</b>	Tom is very energetic, ..... Sam likes to do things slowly.

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## Read the information.

## Clauses of purpose

We use a clause of purpose when we want to state the purpose of the action in the main clause.

There are three different ways to form a clause of purpose

- **to + infinitive**  
*He hired an assistant to help him at the shop.*
- **in order to + infinitive**  
*They went to the bank in order to see the manager.*
- **so that + subject + can / will (for the present)**  
*I'll leave early so that I won't need to rush.*
- **so that + subject + could / would (for the past)**  
*She finished her homework quickly so that she could watch her favourite TV show.*

## Clauses of result

We use a clause of result when we talk about the result that comes from the main clause.

There are three ways to form a clause of result

- **so + clause**  
*We missed the last bus so we had to take a cab.*
- **so + adjective/adverb + that**  
*The film was so good that I saw it twice.*
- **such + a / an + adjective + singular noun + that**  
*It was such an interesting book that I couldn't put it down.*
- **such + adjective + plural noun / uncountable noun + that**  
*They were such well-behaved kids that everyone loved them.*



**Clauses of reason**

We use a clause of reason when we want to talk about why something in the main clause happens.

There are two different ways to form a clause of reason

- *because* + clause

*We are happy because we've just had some good news.*

- *because of* + noun

*Our flight was cancelled because of the fog.*

**Clauses of concession**

We use these when we want to show that what the main clause states happens in spite of what the clause of concession states.

There are four different ways to form a clause of concession

- *but* + clause

*I tried to call her but her mobile was switched off.*

- *However*, + clause

*John hated beans. However, he ate the bean soup without a word.*

- *although* + clause

*Although we were late, she refused to hurry.*

- *in spite of / despite* + gerund

There is no difference in meaning or use between *in spite of* and *despite*.

*In spite of following the instructions, we couldn't make the machine work.*

*Despite playing well, he lost the game.*

- *in spite of / despite* + the fact that + clause

*In spite of the fact that they knew no one at the party, they had a good time.*

- *in spite of / despite* + noun

*The climbers started early in the morning despite the bad weather forecast.*

**Clauses of contrast**

We use these when we want to show that what the clause of contrast states is the opposite of what the main clause states.

There are two different ways to form a clause of contrast

- *while* + clause

*You are a good singer while I am dreadful!*

- *whereas* + clause

*These shoes are expensive whereas those shoes are more reasonably priced.*

11

**Choose the correct answer.**

- I'm saving money **so that / in order to** buy a new MP3 player.
- He asked me **to / in order** help him so that he would finish on time.
- They flew to New York **so that / to** see their son who is studying there.
- I gave Mary my sweater **so that / to** she could keep warm.
- In order / So that** to apply for a driving licence you have to be eighteen years old.
- Grandad's learning how to send emails **in order to / so that** he can write to his grandchildren.
- They took a camera with them **to / so that** take some photos.
- You must label your things **in order / so that** we'll know they are yours.
- He has to go to the shops **so / in order** to get new trainers.
- Ben gets up early **so that / in order** he can exercise before work.



**12 Join the sentences using the words given.**

- 1 I put all the cans in a bag. I wanted to take them to the recycling bin. **to**  
*I put all the cans in a bag to take them to the recycling bin.*
- 2 Paul bought some snacks. He wanted to treat his friends. **in order to**
- 3 She ran as fast as she could. She wanted to catch the bus. **in order to**
- 4 I phone my granny every week. I want to see how she's doing. **to**
- 5 Mary is going to London. She wants to see an exhibition. **in order to**
- 6 They are revising the whole book. They want to do well in the test. **in order to**
- 7 They sent me an email. They wanted to invite me to their house. **to**
- 8 I put on a hat. I wanted to protect my face from the sun. **to**

**13 Rewrite the sentences using *so that*.**

- 1 She always packs her school bag in the evening in order to get more sleep in the morning.  
*She always packs her school bag in the evening so that she can get more sleep in the morning.*
- 2 I bought a newspaper to have something to read on the bus.
- 3 Jane left early in order to go to the doctor.
- 4 She exercises every day to get fitter.
- 5 They leave the window open in order to get some fresh air.
- 6 He set the alarm clock to wake up early the following day.

**Look!**

Remember: *so* + adjective/adverb + *that*  
*such* + *a* + adjective + singular noun  
*such* + adjective + plural noun  
*such* + adjective + uncountable noun

**14 Join the sentences.**

- 1 Diana is an interesting speaker. I can listen to her for hours.  
*Diana is such an interesting speaker that I can listen to her for hours.*
- 2 It was a small car. It could only take two people.  
 The car was so .....
- 3 The flowers were beautiful. I didn't want to cut them.  
 They were such .....
- 4 The news is exciting. I can't keep it to myself.  
 It is such .....
- 5 He is a very good friend. I would do anything for him.  
 He is such .....
- 6 The party finished late. I fell asleep in the car on the way home.  
 The party finished so .....
- 7 The books were valuable. We had to wear white gloves to touch them.  
 They were such .....



## Look!

Read the sentences first and decide which of the two talks about the result.

### 15 Join the sentences using so.

- 1 George is thrilled. His team has just won the Cup. *George's team has just won the Cup, so he is thrilled.*
- 2 There is a sale. You can buy things at a reduced price. ....
- 3 I am going home. I've got lots of homework to do. ....
- 4 You can have the coffee machine. We don't use it. ....
- 5 She called her dad. She wanted to ask him something. ....
- 6 The school bus was late today. I missed the first lesson. ....
- 7 They knew they were wrong. They apologised. ....
- 8 I know all their lyrics. I listen to their CDs all the time. ....

### 16 Complete with because or because of.

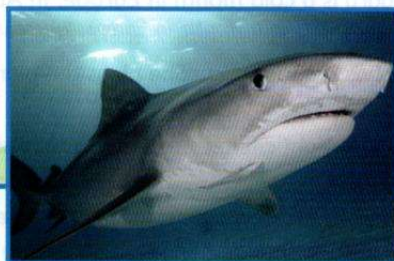
- 1 They were tired *because* they had been playing all day.
- 2 The road was closed ..... the accident that had happened earlier.
- 3 She didn't watch the film to the end ..... she didn't like it.
- 4 I can't remember the details ..... it has been ages since I read it.
- 5 We couldn't sit outside ..... the wind.
- 6 He took an umbrella with him ..... it was going to rain.
- 7 I had to miss the school trip ..... my broken leg.
- 8 They hadn't heard anything I'd said ..... the noise.

## Look!

Remember:  
because + clause  
because of + noun

### 17 Read, choose and complete.

however (x2) although despite (x2) but spite



## TeenLink

### How to protect yourself ...

#### Shark Attack!

If you see a shark while you're swimming, first of all try to stay calm. <sup>1</sup> *Despite* ..... the urge to start splashing about and shouting for help, try to swim away from it as smoothly and as fast as you can. Don't even think of attacking it first. <sup>2</sup> ....., if the shark attacks, the best thing you can do is hit it. You might think that 'playing dead' is better <sup>3</sup> ..... it really won't help.

<sup>4</sup> ..... some people advise hitting the shark on the nose, the best place to hit it is between the eyes. Using a stick or a pole to do so is best because this will also keep you away from the shark. <sup>5</sup> ....., since people do not usually swim carrying sticks or poles, you can use your fist or fingers to poke at it.

In <sup>6</sup> ..... of the belief that sharks like to attack people, they usually think they're attacking a big fish. Also, <sup>7</sup> ..... the popular myth that all sharks are dangerous, you will be relieved to know that almost 80% of all shark species are completely harmless for humans.



**18 Rewrite the sentences using the words given.**

- 1 She is very tall. However, they didn't offer her a place in the school basketball team. **despite**  
*Despite the fact that she's very tall, they didn't offer her a place in the school basketball team.*
- 2 The new table arrived, but the chairs didn't. **although**
- 3 Although they are twins they don't look the same. **however**
- 4 In spite of taking cookery lessons, she is still an awful cook. **although**
- 5 He is a good actor, but he didn't get the part in the film. **in spite of**
- 6 Although it was a difficult thing to do, they succeeded. **but**
- 7 We ran to the station, but when we got there the train had already left. **however**
- 8 Although he works in the city, he has chosen to live in the country. **in spite of**
- 9 Despite the fact that he seems friendly, I don't really like him. **but**
- 10 Although the film was a comedy, no-one laughed. **despite**

**19 Join the sentences with *and* or *while* / *whereas*.**

- 1 January is a cold month in Europe. In Australia it is a hot month.  
*January is a cold month in Europe, whereas in Australia it is a hot month.*
- 2 She has a good voice. She plays the piano very well.
- 3 I love romantic films. My brother thinks they're silly.
- 4 It has been a long time since we last met. He won't remember me.
- 5 We wanted to play football. They wanted to go skating.
- 6 They usually spend their holidays in the mountains. We prefer the sea.
- 7 We found some eggs in the fridge. We made an omelette.
- 8 I try to have a healthy diet. He only eats junk food.
- 9 You were very helpful. Your colleague was very rude.
- 10 I realised I was wrong. I apologised to my friend.

**Look!**

We use *and* to join sentences that talk about similar things. We use *while* / *whereas* to join sentences that talk about opposite things.



