

Year 5 and 6 Grammar: Relative Clauses and Relative Pronouns



Learning From Home Activity Booklet

Statutory Requirements	Activity Sheet	Page Number
Pupils should be taught to use relative clauses beginning with who, which, where, when, whose, that or with an implied (i.e. omitted) relative pronoun.	Match the Clause	2
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Match the Clause

The sentences below all contain a main clause and a relative clause. A relative clause comes after the noun to which they add more information. They usually start with a relative pronoun (e.g. which, who, whose, when, where).

The sentences below have been mixed up! Please match the main clause to the relative clause that suits it best. For example:

My favourite food is pizza,	which originates from Italy.		This makes sense
My favourite food is pizza,	which is made from snow.		This doesn't make sense

Main Clauses
I go swimming at 7 a.m.,
Robert is a very hard-working boy,
I can't eat the sandwich because it has peanut butter inside it,
My sister looks like my mum,
We moved house in 2014,
Jaguars live in the rainforest,
The Egyptians were great architects,
I have to play inside the house,

Relative Clauses
whose hair curls in the same way.
which I am allergic to.
when I was 8 years old.
who always does his homework.
where my mum can keep an eye on me.
who built many pyramids.
where it is hot and humid.
which means I don't have breakfast until 8:30 a.m.

Two Become One

Emma likes to write songs and has written some sentences for her new song. However, she thinks the sentences are too short for the music and would like to combine them to make a longer, complex sentence. Help her to make two sentences become one by changing the pronoun in the second sentence into a **relative pronoun** and joining the two together (remember to add a comma before the relative pronoun). For example:



Mrs Smith was my teacher. She taught me in Year 2.
Mrs Smith was my teacher, who taught me in Year 2.

Use these relative pronouns to help you:

who	which	when	where	whose
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1. I like to eat pizza. It's my favourite food.

2. My alarm broke this morning. This meant I was late for school.

3. My best friends are Mel and Victoria. They walk with me to school.

4. Last year I started school in Reception class. I still had blonde hair.

5. I have a friend called Geri. Her house is next door to mine.

6. I eat in the hall. It's always very noisy.

7. My headteacher is Mr Johnson. He has a friendly smile.

Add a Relative Clause

Relative clauses usually add more information about a noun in a sentence. They help make your work more interesting for the reader. Below is a list of simple sentences with a relative pronoun at the end. Please rewrite each sentence again and add a sensible relative clause. Remember to add a comma before the relative pronoun. For example:

I can't swim. **which**

I can't swim, **which means that I don't like going near water.**

1. Spain is a very hot country. **where**

2. Roald Dahl was a famous author. **who**

3. Hamid is having a party next year. **when**

4. The girl in the dress is Cinderella. **whose**

5. A cat has sharp claws. **which**

6. Sarah looks just like her mum. **whose**

7. Usain Bolt is a sprinter. **who**

8. Children don't always go to school. **where**

9. People keep their pets indoors on Bonfire Night. **when**

10. A bike has brakes. **which**

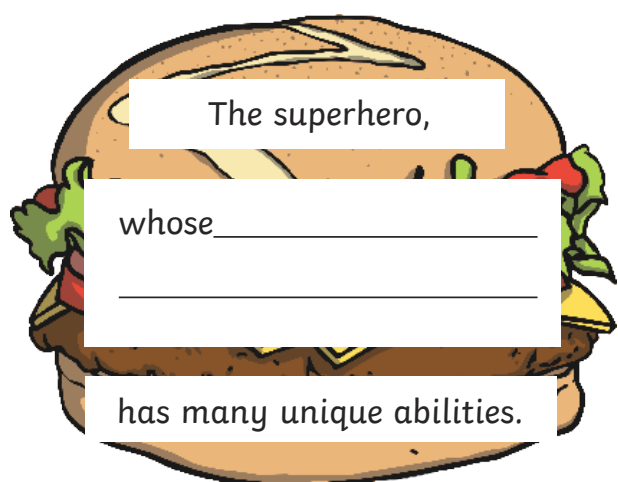
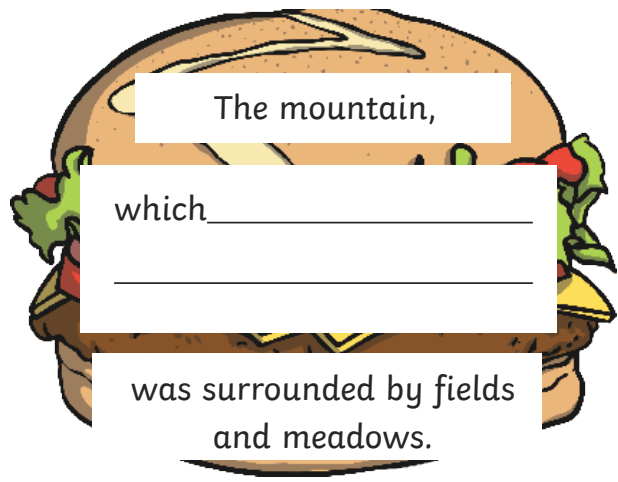
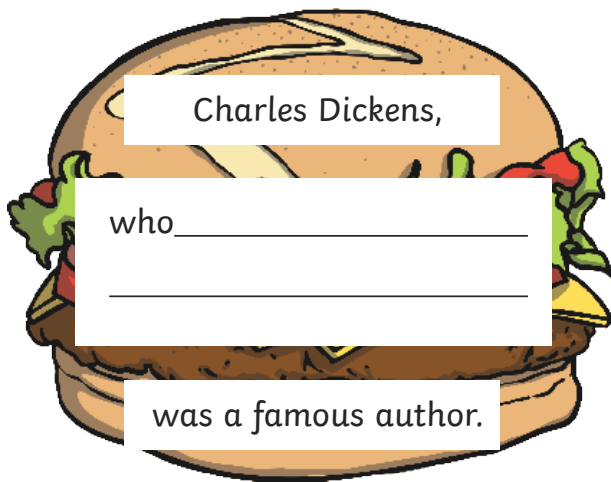
Cheeseburgers 1

Relative clauses can also be 'dropped in' (or embedded) into the middle of sentence after the noun they are giving extra information about. For example:

Luke likes playing football.

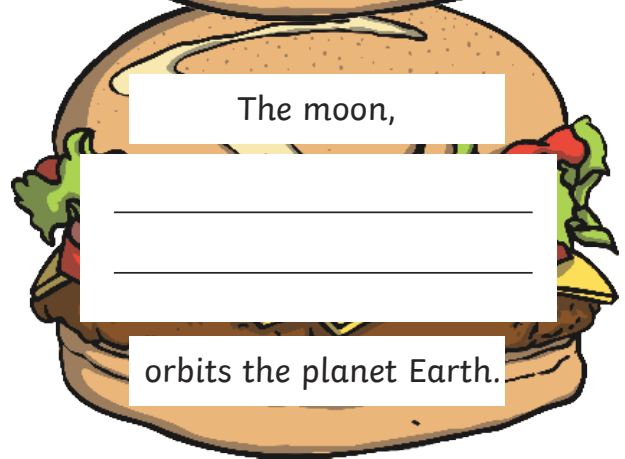
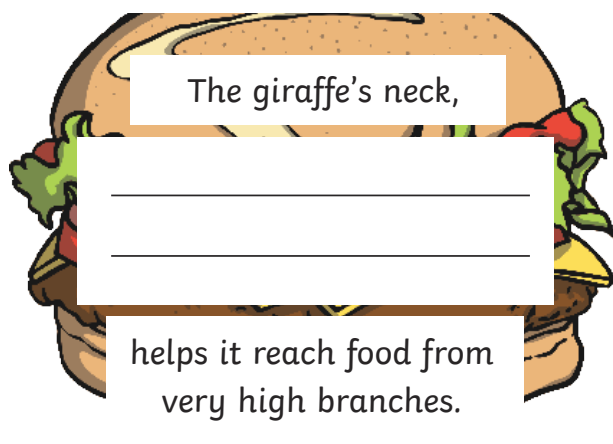
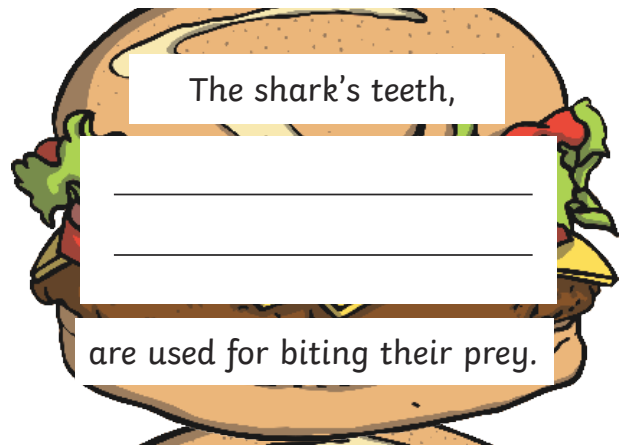
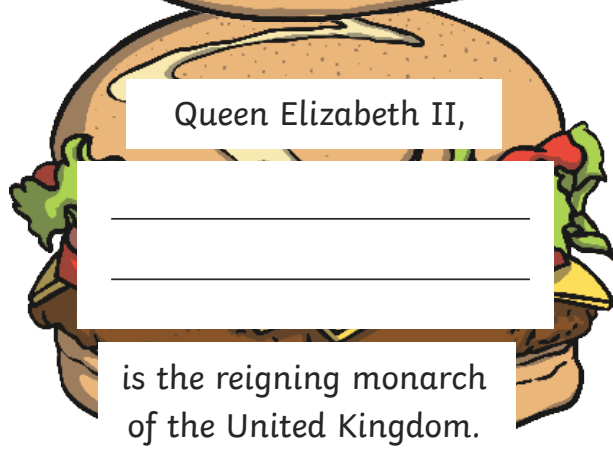
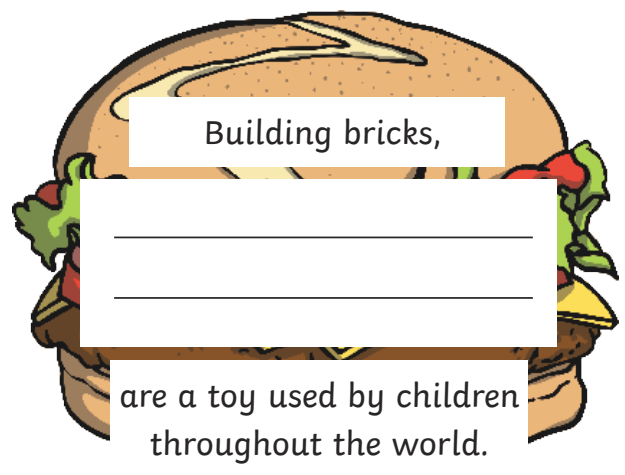
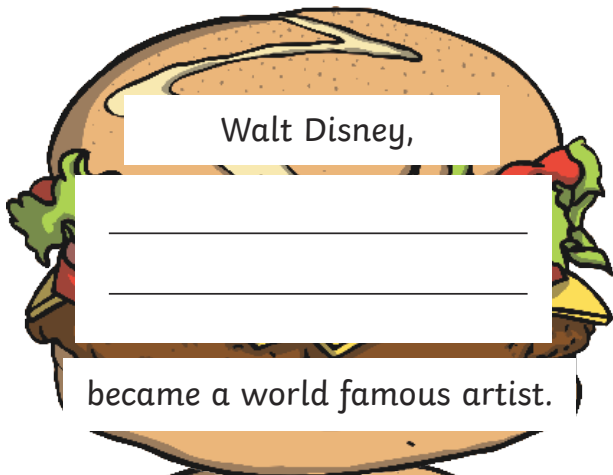
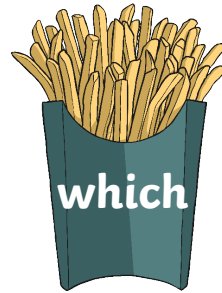
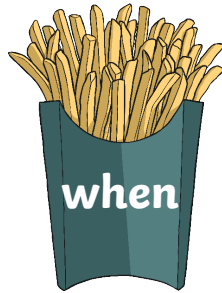
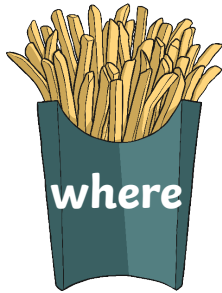
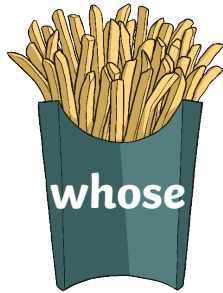
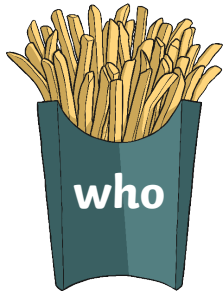
Luke, **who is very sporty**, likes to play football.

In the example above, the relative clause has been placed in the middle of the sentence after the noun 'Luke' that it gives more information about. Think of it as a cheeseburger. The relative clause is the meat that fills the middle of the bun and the bun is the main clause. Complete the cheeseburgers below by adding an embedded clause to the burger.



Cheeseburgers 2

Continue to add relative clauses to the middle of these cheeseburgers but this time choose your own relative pronoun to complete the sentence.



Spot the Clause

Sentences that contain relative clauses are called complex sentences because they contain a main clause and a relative clause. The relative clause starts with a relative pronoun and can't be a sentence by itself.

Using two different colours, highlight the main clause in each sentence and the relative clause in a different colour. For example:

- My daughter's hair is very curly, **which makes it hard to brush.**
- Take it to Sarah, **who is in the kitchen.**
- Snow, **which is very cold,** can be used to make snowmen.

1. Usain Bolt, whose home is in Jamaica, has won lots of gold medals.
2. I like to go to the beach in the summer, when it is very sunny.
3. Ben, who has brown hair, likes to play computer games.
4. The girl in the princess outfit is called Mia, who always plays dressing up.
5. There aren't any biscuits left, which means somebody must have eaten them all.
6. Perth, which has many sunny days, is a city in Australia.
7. The boy's trainers, which are brand new, were covered in mud.
8. The lady by the piano is a musician, who likes to give music lessons.

Challenge: Now write your own sentence with a relative clause.

Essential Area 1

There are two types of relative clauses: **essential relative clauses** and **non-essential relative clauses**. The difference is as follows:

Essential relative clause: It cannot be left out of the sentence without affecting the meaning. In the sentence below, if you take out the relative clause, it changes the meaning of the sentence:

It reminded him of the house **that he used to live in**.

Non-essential relative clause: This can be left out of the sentence without changing the meaning. If you removed the relative clause from the sentence below, the sentence would still make perfect sense.

The boy, **who liked sports**, was playing football.

Look at the pairs of sentences below. State which sentence is **essential** and which is **non-essential**.

Hint: Non-essential relative clauses are separated from the main clause with a comma or commas. Essential clauses often begin with the relative pronoun 'that'.

1. I have three younger brothers who all like to play on the computer. _____

My brothers, who are all younger than me, like to play on the computer. _____

2. My sister, who is older than me, likes chocolate. _____

I have a sister who likes chocolate. _____

3. My friend, who is called Adam, moved to America last week. _____

I have a friend called Adam who moved to America last week. _____

4. Walt Disney is a famous man who created many animated films. _____

Walt Disney, who created many animated films, is a famous man. _____

Essential Area 2

Look at the sentences below. Decide if the relative clause in each sentence is essential or non-essential. By the end of each sentence, please write essential or non-essential. The first one has been done for you.

1. My sister, who lives in Madrid, came to visit me last month. **Non-essential** _____
2. It is best not to stroke a dog that you don't know. _____
3. Nell likes to go walking, which helps her keep fit. _____
4. Fish, which have gills, live in the sea. _____
5. Christopher Columbus, a famous explorer, was from Italy. _____
6. For their camping trip, the children need clothes that are washable. _____
7. Maisie often plays with dolls, which can keep her busy for hours. _____
8. The dodo, which was a flightless bird, became extinct in 1681. _____
9. A tiger's fur is covered in stripes, which it uses for camouflage. _____
10. My dad went to hospital with a broken thumb that he hit with a hammer. _____

My Relatives

Now try and use relative clause in an independent piece of writing. Write a description about a member of your family or members of your family using **relative clauses** to add extra information to your sentences. For example:



My mum, **who** has brown hair, is a policewoman.

Her favourite food is chicken curry, **which** we eat every Friday night.

She loves the park in our hometown **that** she always played in as a child.

Use the relative clause checklist when you have finished your work to see how well you have done.

My Relative Clause Checklist

Target	Tick
I have included relative clauses to add extra information about nouns.	
I have used relative pronouns to start my relative clauses: who , where , when , whose , which or that .	
I have used a comma (or commas when embedded) for non-essential relative clauses.	
I have read my work back to make sure it all makes sense.	



A Parent's Guide to Terminology

In Years 5 and 6, your child will be expected to use a range of sentence structures in their writing including sentences with relative clauses. Use this activity booklet to help your child understand, identify and write relative clauses.

Terminology	Explanation
Relative pronoun	These are used to connect a clause to a noun or pronoun. The relative pronouns used in this booklet are: who, whose, which, where, when. 'That' is also used to replace who or which in essential relative clauses.
Relative clause	This is used to add information about a noun so it must be related to the noun. For example: She lives in Manchester, which is in North West England. I don't like the clown, who has a bright, red nose. Emma is my friend, whose house is next door to mine.
Embedded 'drop in' clause	A relative clause is said to be 'embedded' if it is added to the middle of a main clause. It is then separated from the rest of the sentence by commas. For example: The cat, who had bright eyes , walked down the gloomy street.
Non-essential relative clause	A non-essential relative clause is non-essential information within a sentence and is separated from the main clause with a comma (or surrounding commas if it is embedded).
Essential relative clause	A essential relative clause is essential information within a sentence and does not need commas to separate it from the main clause. Essential relative clauses often begin with the relative pronoun 'that'.

Relative Clauses and Relative Pronouns Answers

1. Match the clause

Main Clauses	Relative Clauses
I go swimming at 7 a.m.,	whose hair curls in the same way.
Robert is a very hard-working boy,	which I am allergic to.
I can't eat the sandwich because it has peanut butter inside it,	when I was 8 years old.
My sister looks like my mum,	who always does his homework.
We moved house in 2014,	where my mum can keep an eye on me.
Jaguars live in the rainforest,	who built many pyramids.
The Egyptians were great architects,	where it is hot and humid.
I have to play inside the house,	which means I don't have breakfast until 8:30 a.m.

2. Two Become One

1. I like to eat pizza, **which is** my favourite food.
2. My alarm broke this morning, **which** meant I was late for school.
3. My best friends are Mel and Victoria, **who** walk with me to school.
4. Last year I started school in Reception class **when** I still had blonde hair.
5. I have a friend called Geri, **whose** house is next door to mine.
6. I eat in the hall, **where** it's always very noisy.
7. My headteacher is Mr Johnson, **who** has a friendly smile.

Relative Clauses and Relative Pronouns Answers

Page	Answers
3. Add a Relative Clause	Accept any sensible relative clause that starts with a comma and the given relative pronoun.
4. Cheeseburgers 1	Accept any sensible relative clause written within each cheeseburger.
5. Cheeseburgers 2	Accept any sensible relative pronoun and relative clause written within each cheeseburger.

6. Two Become One

1. Usain Bolt, **whose home is in Jamaica**, has won lots of gold medals.
2. I like to go to the beach in the summer, **when it is very sunny**.
3. Ben, **who has brown hair**, likes to play computer games.
4. The girl in the princess outfit is called Mia, **who always plays dressing up**.
5. There aren't any biscuits left, **which means somebody must have eaten them all**.
6. Perth, **which has many sunny days**, is a city in Australia.
7. The boy's trainers, **which are brand new**, were covered in mud.
8. The lady by the piano is a musician, **who likes to give music lessons**.

7. Essential area 1

1. I have three younger brothers who all like to play on the computer. **Essential**
My brothers, who are all younger than me, like to play on the computer. **Non-essential**
2. My sister, who is older than me, likes chocolate. **Non-essential**
I have a sister who likes chocolate. **Essential**
3. My friend, who is called Adam, moved to America last week. **Non-essential**
I have a friend called Adam who moved to America last week. **Essential**
4. Walt Disney is a famous man who created many animated films. **Essential**
Walt Disney, who created many animated films, is a famous man. **Non-essential**

Relative Clauses and Relative Pronouns Answers

8. Essential area 2

1. My sister, who lives in Madrid, came to visit me last month. **Non-essential**
2. It is best not to stroke a dog that you don't know. **Essential**
3. Nell likes to go walking, which helps her keep fit. **Non-essential**
4. Fish, which have gills, live in the sea. **Non-essential**
5. Christopher Columbus, a famous explorer, was from Italy. **Non-essential**
6. For their camping trip, the children need clothes that are washable. **Essential**
7. Masie often plays with dolls, which can keep her busy for hours. **Non-essential**
8. The dodo, which was a flightless bird, became extinct in 1681. **Non-essential**
9. A tiger's fur is covered in stripes, which it uses for camouflage. **Non-essential**
10. My dad went to hospital with a broken thumb that he hit with a hammer. **Essential**