

Relative Clauses and Relative Pronouns Warm-Up



Creating Relative Clause Sentences

We can add extra additional detail about a noun by adding a relative clause to a sentence.

Instead of using two single-clause (simple sentences) to describe something,

e.g. Sarah is eating roast chicken. It is her favourite meal.



We can combine the two sentences to make one multi-clause (complex) sentence using subordination with a relative clause.

e.g. Sarah is eating spaghetti, which is her favourite meal.



A **relative clause** is connected to the main clause by a **relative pronoun**. We've replaced the pronoun 'It' in the second sentence with the **relative pronoun** 'which'.

Relative Pronouns



A relative clause always starts with a relative pronoun.

Examples of relative pronouns are:

whose

which

who

that

whom

Can you identify the relative pronouns in these sentences?

We went to the new swimming pool, **which** has three fantastic slides.

Josie, **who** loves to play football, was picked for the county team.

Sadiq, **whose** pen had run out, put his hand up to ask for another one.

The boy **whom** you met last week is coming to visit later.

My Grandad caught the rabbit **that** had escaped.

Where Can a Relative Clause Be Placed?

Where in these sentences are the relative clauses placed? How do you know?

The class were well-behaved on the school trip, **which made their teacher proud.**

William, **who was wearing his favourite shirt,** was going to the school disco.

I go to a swimming club early in the morning, **which means that I'm tired by the afternoon.**

Have you seen the people **whom we met yesterday at the park?**

Amir found the missing cat **that his neighbour had lost.**

Relative clauses can be in the middle of a sentence (embedded) or at the end of a sentence.



Creating Relative Clauses

Write sentences about the following pictures and include an embedded relative clause:



The children, **who all wore helmets**, were excited about their cycling trip.



My cat, **which was black and white**, got stuck up a tree.

Is the Information Essential?

Josie, **who loves to play football**, was picked for the county team.

The information given in this relative clause is extra, non-essential (or **non-restrictive**) information which means that we use commas around the relative clause.



Amir found the missing cat **that his neighbour had lost**.

In this sentence the relative clause contains essential (or **restrictive**) information so the commas have been omitted – there might be lots of cats but this was the missing cat that belonged to Amir's neighbour.



Is the Information Essential?

Decide whether these relative clauses are **restrictive** or **non-restrictive**.
Add commas where you need them:

Jamie, who is usually late, managed to arrive on time for school today.

non-restrictive.

We went to the best adventure playground, which had a huge climbing wall, while we were on holiday last week.

non-restrictive.

The children did well in the dance show, which made their teacher happy.

non-restrictive.

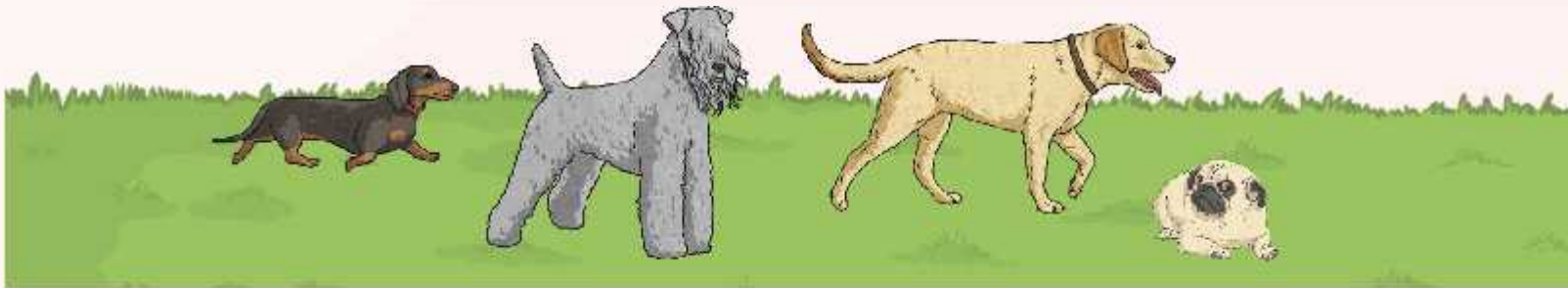
Is the Information Essential?

Decide whether these relative clauses are **restrictive** or **non-restrictive**.
Add commas where you need them:

The prize that I won was a very special signed book. **restrictive.**

Mia, whose favourite colour is orange, was unhappy to be in the green team for Sports' Day. **non-restrictive.**

Those are the dogs that ran on the grass. **restrictive.**



Do I Need a Relative Pronoun?

In a **restrictive relative clause** it is possible to omit the relative pronoun if it refers to the object of the sentence:

e.g. Amir found the missing cat **that** his neighbour had lost.

Could be written as:

Amir found the missing cat his neighbour had lost.

Read the following sentences containing **restrictive relative clauses** and decide whether it is possible to omit the relative pronoun:

The test ~~that~~ we did yesterday was really easy.

The class that had the most points was given extra play.

The book ~~that~~ I bought yesterday cost me three pounds.



Writing Relative Clause Sentences

Choose a square to reveal a hidden picture. Write a relative clause sentence about the picture on your whiteboard. Underline your relative pronoun.

next

Quick Quiz 1

For each sentence, identify the relative pronoun:

I can't eat that chocolate bar because it has nuts in, **which** I'm allergic to.

Mangoes, **which** are grown in tropical countries, are one of my favourite foods.



The cats **that** were caterwauling last night kept me awake.

Jamal, **who** is a fantastic guitarist, has joined the school band.

Quick Quiz 2

Can you match the main clause to the appropriate relative clause?

The cat scratched my arm,

who is three years younger than me.

The paddling pool is full of cool water,

who had fallen from the tall slide.

I have a sister,

which made it sore.

The ambulance rushed to help the child,

which is fabulous on this hot day.



Quick Quiz 3

Can you break each relative clause sentence back down into two single-clause (simple) sentences?

I look just like my dad, whose hair is black too.

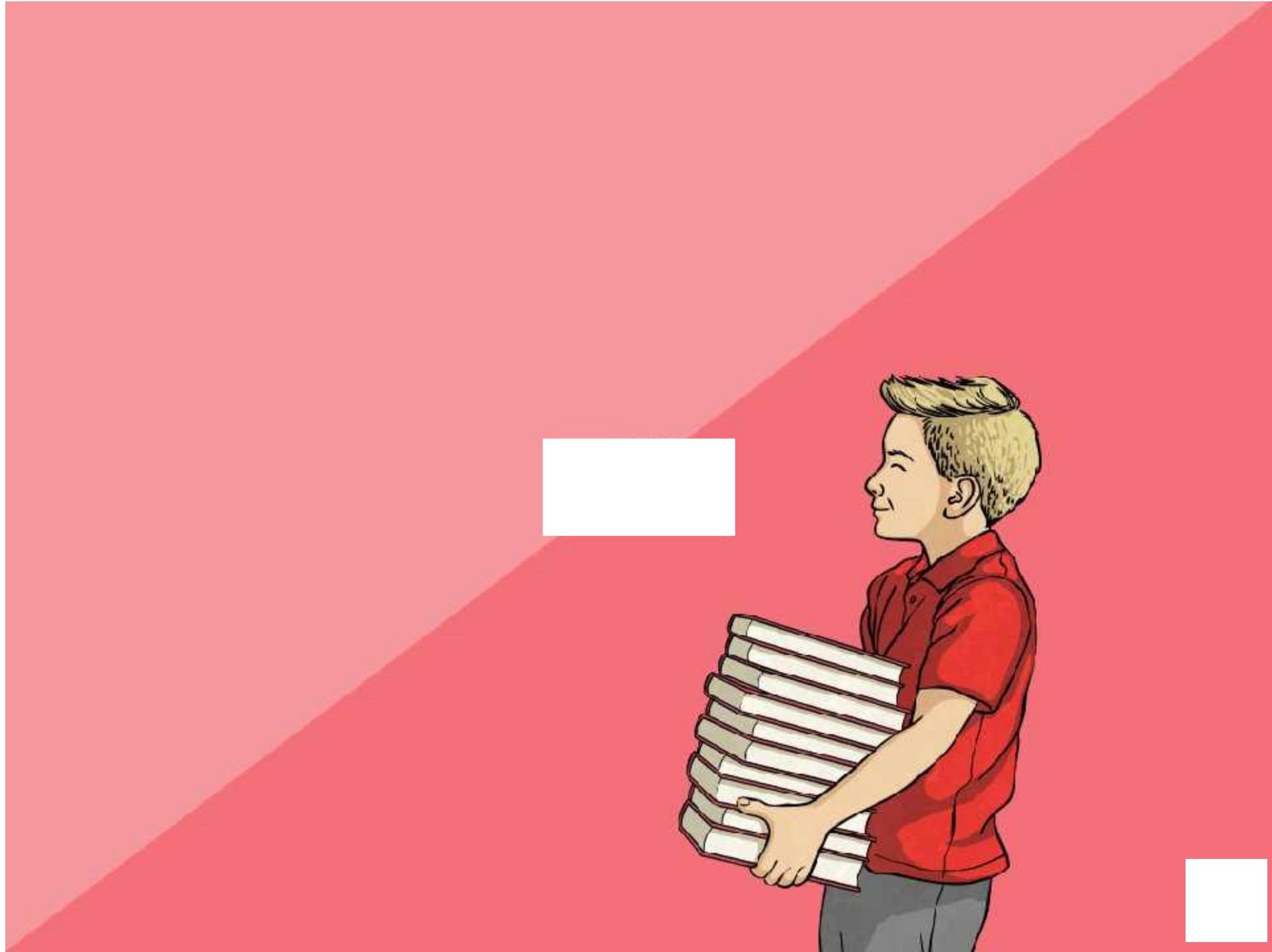
I look just like my dad. His hair is black too.

My rabbit, who loves carrots, always runs up to me when I go to its hutch.

My rabbit always runs up to me when I go to its hutch. It loves carrots.

Micah, whose legs were aching, finally completed the race.

Micah finally completed the race. His legs were aching.



Relative Pronouns

Relative clauses give extra information related to a previously mentioned noun or pronoun within a sentence. A relative clause always starts with a relative pronoun, such as:

that

whose

which

whom

who



Joe, who was dressed as a cowboy, was excited about his friend's fancy dress party.

'who' is the **relative pronoun** here used to begin the relative clause. As this is extra, non-essential (non-restrictive) information, we put the clause in commas. This is often called an embedded or sandwich clause.

The winning competitor held the trophy aloft, which made the crowd cheer loudly.

'which' is the **relative pronoun** so this time the relative clause is after the main clause. We still need a comma before the relative clause as this is also extra, non-essential (non-restrictive) information.



People that exercise daily are more likely to maintain a healthy weight.



'that' is a **relative pronoun** so this also shows a relative clause. This time the information in the extra clause is essential (restrictive) to the meaning of the sentence so therefore we don't need to use commas.



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 7am, |
| Robert is a very hardworking 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, |
| The flying boy is called Peter Pan, |

| 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. |
| when the weather is terrible outside. |
| who built many pyramids. |
| where it is hot and humid. |
| which means I don't have breakfast until 8.30 am. |
| whose home is in Neverland. |

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 longer, complex sentences. 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 |
|------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|

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. I started school in reception class. I was four years old.

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 principal 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. J. K. Rowling is 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 like to watch fireworks. **when**

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

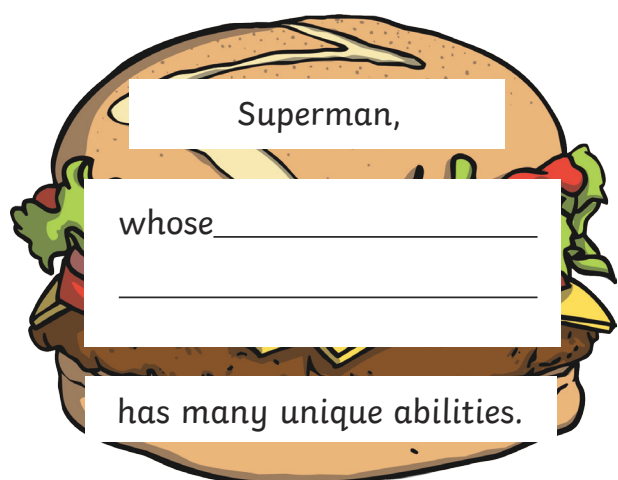
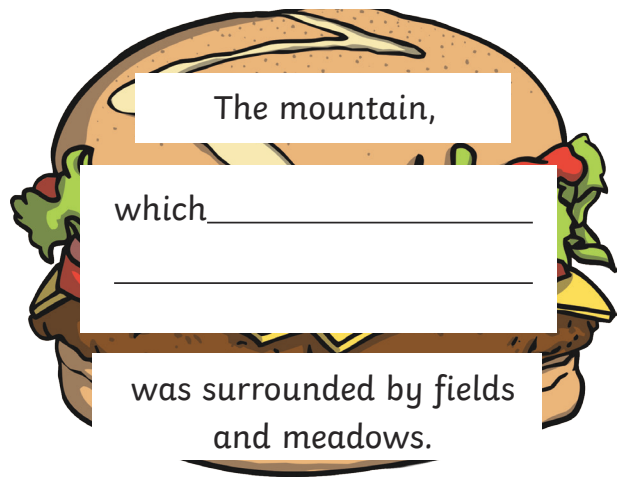
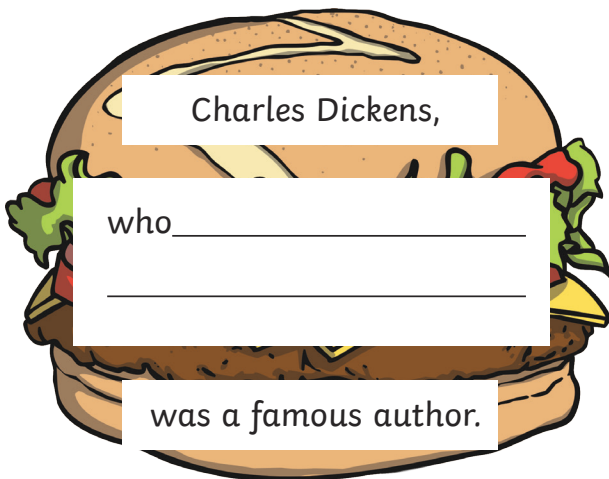
Cheeseburgers 1

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

Luke likes playing football.

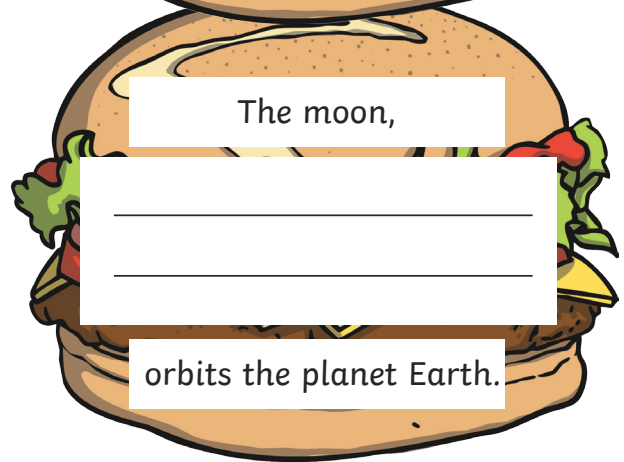
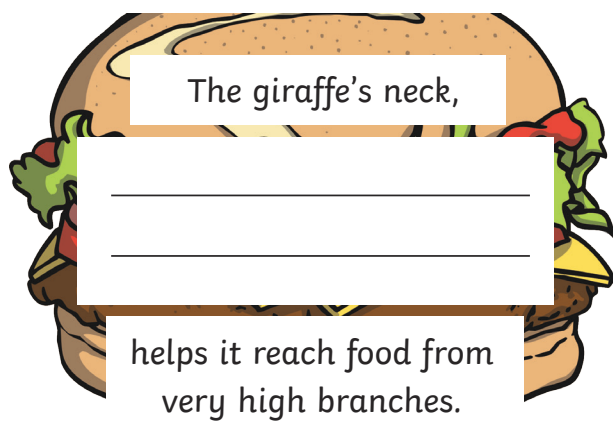
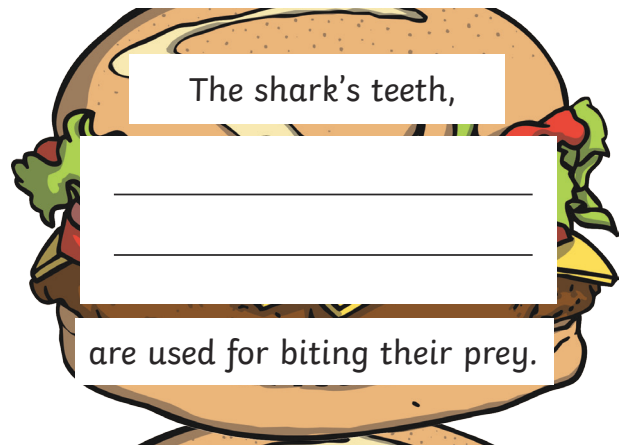
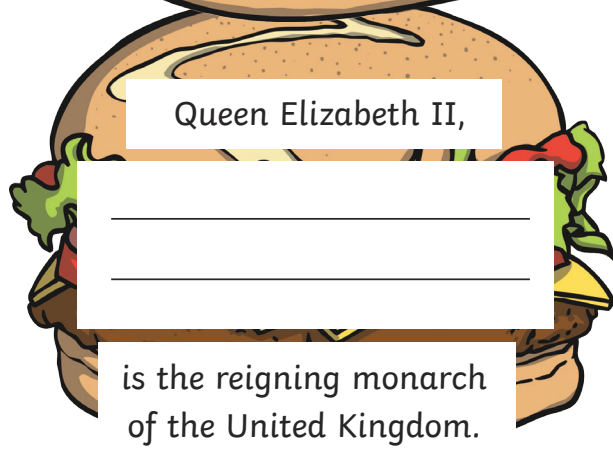
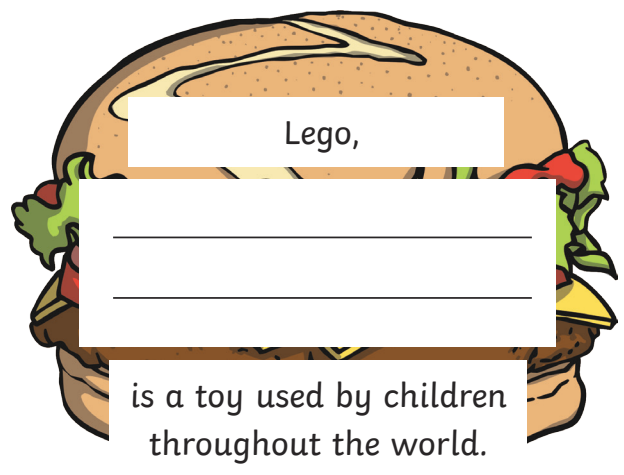
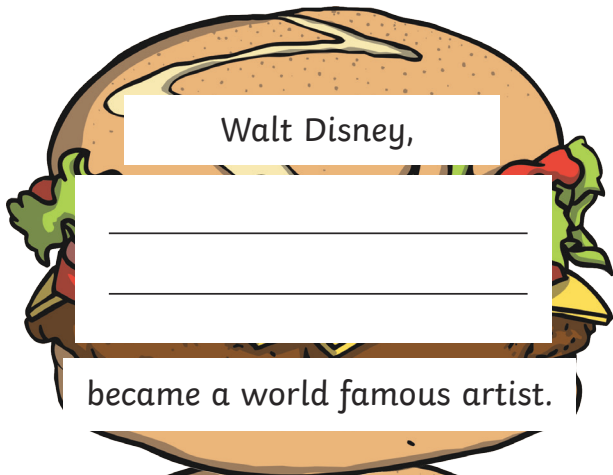
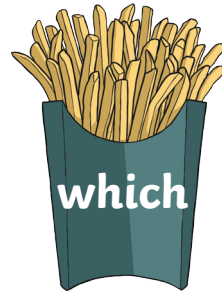
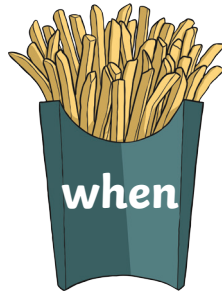
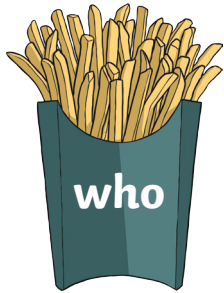
Luke, **who is very sporty**, likes to play football.

In the example above, the relative clause has been placed in the middle of the sentence after the noun 'Luke' who 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, 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.

Restricted Area 1



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

Restrictive 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-restrictive 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 **restrictive** and which is **non-restrictive**.

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

1. I have three younger brothers that 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 that likes chocolate. _____

4. My friend, who is called Adam, moved to America last week. _____
I have a friend called Adam that moved to America last week. _____

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

Restricted Area 2



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

1. My sister, who lives in Melbourne, came to visit me last month. **Non-restrictive** _____
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, who discovered America, 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 police officer.

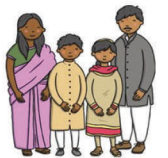
Her favourite food is chicken curry, **which** we eat every Friday night.

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-restrictive relative clauses. | |
| I have read my work back to make sure it all makes sense. | |



Guide to Terminology

| 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 restrictive 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 Lorne, which is on the Great Ocean Road. 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 can also be an embedded clause 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-restrictive relative clause | A non-restrictive 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). |
| Restrictive relative clause | A restrictive relative clause is essential information within a sentence and does not need commas to separate it from the main clause. Restrictive 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 7am, | whose hair curls in the same way. |
| Robert is a very hardworking 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, | when the weather is terrible outside. |
| 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 am. |
| The flying boy is called Peter Pan, | whose home is in Neverland. |

2. Two Become One

- I like to eat pizza, **which is** my favourite food.
- My alarm broke this morning, **which** meant I was late for school.
- My best friends are Mel and Victoria, **who** walk with me to school.
- I started school in reception class, **when** I was four years old.
- I have a friend called Geri, **whose** house is next door to mine.
- I eat in the hall, **where** it's always very noisy.
- My head teacher 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, **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. Restricted area 1

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

Relative Clauses and Relative Pronouns Answers

8. Restricted area 2

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