



Some Rules for Relative Clauses:

Relative clauses are formed with the **pronouns**: *who*, *which*, *whose*, or *that* and with the adverbs *when*, *where*, or *why*. To know which pronoun to use, look carefully at the relative clause itself. *Who* refers to people, *which* refers to things, and *that* refers to people or things.

1. ***Who*, *which*, or *that* can be followed by a verb (an incomplete clause).**

Examples:

The scientist *who* (or *that*) **described** the basic principles of the heredity of plants and animals is Gregor Johann Mendel, an Austrian monk.

A gene is a portion of the DNA *which* (or *that*) **resides** at a locus within the chromosome.

2. ***Whom*, *which*, and *that* can be followed by a subject and a verb, but the clause will be incomplete. In these types of clauses *whom*, *which*, or *that* can be deleted.**

Examples:

The student **whom I saw in the lab** was Ritva. OR The student **whom I saw in the lab** was Ritva.

The experiment *which* (or *that*) **I did last week** provided fantastic results.

3. ***Whom* or *which* preceded by a preposition (e.g. *to whom*, *of which*, *about which*, *by which*) will be followed by a full clause (subject, verb and object).**

Examples:

The person *for whom* **I wrote the poem** is Gregor Mendel.

The process *by which* **UCLA selects its incoming freshmen class** is highly competitive.

I'll never forget the day *on which* **I accidentally threw my lab results away**.

4. **Relative clauses begin with adverbs *when*, *where*, and *why*.**

Examples:

The lab *where I work* is very cold.

I'll never forget the day *when I presented my research to Dr. Lee*.

Tell me the reason *why you had so much trouble with your essay*.

5. **Two types of relative clauses—restrictive vs. non-restrictive- are punctuated differently AND use different relative pronouns (*that* vs. *which*).**

Restrictive—Many companies *that have engaged in layoffs* have found that their productivity decreased.

Non-restrictive—The Duke University study on anger, *which was funded by the government*, has found that attorneys who said their anger levels were high in their years as students were four to five times more likely to die in their 50s than their somewhat calmer colleagues.

Task 1: Underline the relative clauses in the following sentences. Note the punctuation of the relative clause and try to explain why it is punctuated in this way.

1. People who succeed at what they do tend to keep doing it.
2. The super-rich—who already have so much more than virtually everybody—continue to work.
3. But once countries get past the prosperity level that solves large-scale health and nutrition problems, income disparity pales in comparison with other factors in predicting happiness.
4. Evidence that economic growth can create unhappiness is wrong.
5. Yet post-Soviet Russia is a miserable place in which only about one in five citizens say they are very happy about their lives.
6. The happiness of American communities—all of which are above the level of subsistence—depends very little on their comparative prosperity.
7. Money may not buy happiness, but there is one important way in which money and happiness are related.
8. People in poor countries where much of the population lives below subsistence level are much unhappier than people in rich countries.
9. A hundred thousand years ago, it would have given us happiness to have more animal skins than the troglodyte in the next cave; this would help ensure mating prospects, which would keep our genetic lines going.
10. Take eastern Tennessee, which includes the cities of Chattanooga and Knoxville, but is mostly rural, as an example.