

RELATIVE CLAUSES

NON-DEFINING RELATIVE CLAUSES: En español se llaman explicativas. Son aquellas oraciones de relativo que dan una información extra del antecedente, información que no es imprescindible para la comprensión de la oración principal, por eso va entre comas.

Los pronombres relativos son: **who(m) which that whose where**
En las non-defining se pueden usar todos ellos excepto **that**. Nunca se puede omitir el pronombre relativo y siempre van entre comas.

Examples:

- *Tom's father, who is 78, goes swimming every day.*
- *She told me her address, which I wrote down on a piece of paper.*
- *Martin, whose mother is Spanish, speaks both Spanish and English fluently.*

EXERCISE: Join the following pairs of sentences. There are defining and non-defining relative sentences.

1. She showed me a photograph of her son. Her son is a policeman.
2. The new stadium will be opened next month. The stadium holds 90,000 people.
3. John is one of my closest friends. I have known John for eight years
4. The boy is one of my closest friends. He is waiting for me.
5. Thank you for your letter. I was very happy to get your letter.
6. The letter is in the drawer. Peter has sent the letter to you.
7. Next week-end I'm going to Glasgow. My sister lives in Glasgow.
8. Next summer we are visiting the town. My father was born in this town.
9. The storm caused a lot of damage. Nobody had been expecting the storm.
10. That man over there is an artist. I don't remember his name.
11. Mr Yates is retiring next month. He has worked for the same company all his life.
12. My sister is visiting us next week. You once met her.
13. Mr Carter is very interested in our plan. I spoke to him last night.
14. I've just bought some books about astronomy. I'm very interested in astronomy.
15. The man is in prison. Janet fell in love with this man.

EXERCISE (ANSWERS)

Join the following pairs of sentences. There are defining and non-defining relative sentences.

1. She showed me a photograph of her son, **who** is a policeman. NON- DEFINING.
2. The new stadium, which holds 90,000 people, will be opened next month. NON- DEFINING.
3. John, who(m) I have known for eight years, is one of my closest friends. NON- DEFINING.
4. The boy who is waiting for me is one of my closest friends. DEFINING. The pronoun cannot be left out because it is the subject of the relative clause.
5. Thank you for your letter, which I was very happy to get. NON- DEFINING. THAT cannot be used and even though there is a pronoun in the relative clause WHICH cannot be left out because in non-defining relative clauses the pronoun can NEVER be left out.
6. The letter (that/which) Peter has sent to you is in the drawer. DEFINING. Both THAT and WHICH can be used in this relative clause and the pronoun can be left out because there is a subject: "Peter"
7. Next week-end I'm going to Glasgow, where my sister lives.
8. Next summer we are visiting the town where my father was born. /in which my father was born/ (which) my father was born in. DEFINING
9. Nobody had been expecting the storm, which caused a lot of damage. NON- DEFINING.
10. That man over there, whose name I don't remember, is an artist. NON- DEFINING.
11. Mr Yates, who has worked for the same company all his life, is retiring next month. NON- DEFINING.
12. My sister, who(m) you once met, is visiting us next week. NON- DEFINING. WHOM can be used because it functions as the object of the relative clause.
13. Mr Carter, who I spoke to last night/ to whom I spoke last night, is very interested in our plan. NON- DEFINING. WHOM can be used because it is preceded by a preposition.
14. I've just bought some books about astronomy, which I'm very interested in. NON- DEFINING.
15. The man who/that Janet fell in love with/ Janet fell in love with / with whom Janet fell in love is in prison. DEFINING. The relative pronouns can be left out because there is a subject in the sentence "Janet".