

THE RELATIVE

Defining Relative Clauses

	PEOPLE	THINGS
SUBJECT	Who/that	Which/that
OBJECT	Who/that/ -	Which/that/ -
OBJECT+PREPOSITION	Who/that/ - prep.	Which/that/ - prep.
POSSESSIVE	Whose	Whose

People

The lady who came the other day is very ill.
 The man that we met at the concert is Steve's father-in-law.
 The girl that we were talking about has arrived.
 The man whose car was stolen yesterday is a policeman.

Things

The pencil that is on the table is blunt.
 The book that I'm reading now is fantastic.
 The school that he teaches at is rather far away.
 The house whose roof is black is my grandmother's.

Non-defining Relative Clauses

	PEOPLE	THINGS
SUBJECT	Who	Which
OBJECT	Whom	Which
OBJECT+PREPOSITION	Prep+whom/whom..... +prep	Prep+which/which..... +prep
POSSESSIVE	Whose	Whose

People

James Joyce, who was Irish, wrote one of the most important modern novels.
 Her father, whom we met only yesterday, is very ill.
 Our neighbour's son, with whom you used to play years ago, is now a famous actor.
 Peter Weir, whose films you like so much, comes from Australia.

Things

My car, which was the newest model four years ago, is now out of fashion.
 English grammar, which I hate, is very important though.
 My car, without which I can't go to work, is being repaired at the moment.
 This German wine, whose name is really difficult to pronounce, is very good.

OTHER RELATIVES

WHERE	Place
WHEN	Time
WHY	Reason

The place where I was born is not too far away from here (The place in which I was...)
 That's when she began to laugh (That was the moment at which she...)
 That is why I didn't tell him the truth (That is the reason for my not telling him...)

THAT, and not WHO or WHICH is used in the following cases:

- a) After a superlative. It can be omitted when it is the object:
 He is the best student that ever came to my class.
 That is the most wonderful idea that has come to my head.
 Chinese is the most difficult language (that) I have studied so far.
- b) After indefinite pronouns (all, everything, anything, something, etc):
 Something that happened at the meeting made him angry.
 I can't remember all (that) we were told to do.
- c) After *much*, *any* and *few*:
 The few that came enjoyed the party.
- d) After 'it is' (or 'it was/it isn't/it wasn't'):
 It is you that broke the glass.

WHAT = THE THING THAT (o que). Use WHAT when there is no antecedent:

What you need is a good piece of advice.

Tell me what you see.

EXERCISES

Combine the following sentences so that the second one becomes a Relative Clause (Defining or Non-defining):

1. Is that the new station? You pointed it out to me last week.
2. This is the man. I gave money to him this morning.
3. Anne Boleyn was Henry VIII's second wife. Henry executed her in 1536.
4. Who would look elsewhere, as Henry did? He had such a charming wife.
5. An old soldier sits begging on the pavement. His legs were shot away in the last war.
6. His stepmother was not very kind to him. He was living with her.
7. He had seen only a few policemen. They were all young. (Begin with 'The few...')
8. Last week I went to see the country town. He used to live in that town.
9. Bring me the cigarettes. I left them on the table. The table stands by the window.
10. Mozart spent the last ten years of his life in Vienna. His birthplace was Salzburg.
11. What was the name of the girl? She came here last night.
12. This large map belonged to Ptolemy XI. In the middle of it you can see part of the Arctic Circle.
13. We now come to Euclid. Readers are well acquainted with his work.
14. I'm sure it was Cyril. He told her to do it.
15. The matter has been settled. You were arguing about it last night.
16. This is the dog. It bit a policeman.
17. The man couldn't understand me. I spoke to that man.
18. It was Charles. He drove us to the party.
19. We bought a loaf of bread. It had just come out of the oven.
20. The policeman asked me about some people. I didn't know them.
21. A waiter served us with beer. It was much too cold.
22. One of George's sisters works in his office. Her name is Helen.
23. There was a tall young man at the door. I didn't recognize him.
24. Please send me copies of the poems. Your cousin told me about them.
25. Someone answered the telephone. His voice sounded familiar.
26. Your assistant sold me a watch. It doesn't keep good time.
27. She's the blonde girl. She's serving a customer, now.
28. He offered to let me stay in his house. This was very nice of him.
29. They gave us a lot of information. Most of it was useless.
30. The antiquities of Egypt should not be missed. Such a lot has been written about them.

Fill in the blanks using THAT or WHAT if necessary:

1. All _____ glitters is not gold.
2. _____ I was interested in were Russian stamps.
3. She is the best friend _____ I have.
4. That's all _____ I need to know.
5. There isn't much _____ can be done.
6. I didn't understand _____ you said.
7. There isn't anywhere _____ pleases her.
8. Everything _____ happened after the match was shameful.
9. Isn't it the song _____ won a prize last year?
10. It was a parrot _____ spoke to us.