

Relative clauses 1: clauses with **who/that/which**

A

Look at this example sentence:

The woman **who lives next door** is a doctor.
relative clause

A *clause* is a part of a sentence. A *relative clause* tells us which person or thing (or what kind of person or thing) the speaker means:

- The woman **who lives next door** ... ('who lives next door' tells us which woman)
- People **who live in the country** ... ('who live in the country' tells us what kind of people)

We use **who** in a relative clause when we are talking about people (not things):

the woman – she lives next door – is a doctor
 ↓
 → The woman **who lives next door** is a doctor.

we know a lot of people – they live in the country
 ↓
 → We know a lot of people **who live in the country**.

- An architect is someone **who designs buildings**.
- What was the name of the person **who phoned**?
- Anyone **who wants to apply for the job** must do so by Friday.

You can also use **that** (instead of **who**), but you can't use **which** for people:

- The woman **that lives next door** is a doctor. (*not* the woman **which**)

Sometimes you must use **who** (*not* that) for people – see Unit 95.

B

When we are talking about things, we use **that** or **which** (*not* who) in a relative clause:

where is the cheese? – it was in the fridge
 ↓
 → Where is the cheese { **that** / **which** } was in the fridge?

- I don't like stories **that have unhappy endings**. (*or* stories **which** have ...)
- Grace works for a company **that makes furniture**. (*or* a company **which** makes furniture)
- The machine **that broke down** is working again now. (*or* The machine **which** broke down)

That is more usual than **which**, but sometimes you must use **which** – see Unit 95.

C

Remember that in relative clauses we use **who/that/which**, not **he/she/they/it**.

Compare:

- 'Who's that woman?' '**She** lives next door to me.'
I've never spoken to the woman **who** lives next door. (*not* the woman she lives)
- Where is the cheese? **It** was in the fridge.
Where is the cheese **that** was in the fridge? (*not* the cheese it was)

D

What = 'the thing(s) that'. Compare **what** and **that**:

- What happened** was my fault. (= the thing that happened)

but

- Everything **that happened** was my fault. (*not* Everything **what** happened)
- The machine **that broke down** is now working again. (*not* The machine **what** broke down)

Exercises

92.1 In this exercise you have to explain what some words mean. Choose the right meaning from the box and then write a sentence with **who**. Use a dictionary if necessary.

he/she	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> steals from a shop designs buildings doesn't believe in God is not brave 	he/she	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> buys something from a shop pays rent to live in a house or apartment breaks into a house to steal things expects the worst to happen
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- 1 (an architect) *An architect is someone who designs buildings.*
- 2 (a burglar) A burglar is someone
- 3 (a customer)
- 4 (a shoplifter)
- 5 (a coward)
- 6 (an atheist)
- 7 (a pessimist)
- 8 (a tenant)

92.2 Make one sentence from two. Use **who/that/which**.

- 1 A girl was injured in the accident. She is now in hospital.
The girl who was injured in the accident is now in hospital.
- 2 A waitress served us. She was impolite and impatient.
The
- 3 A building was destroyed in the fire. It has now been rebuilt.
The
- 4 Some people were arrested. They have now been released.
The
- 5 A bus goes to the airport. It runs every half hour.
The

92.3 Complete the sentences. Choose from the box and make a relative clause.

invented the telephone	makes furniture
runs away from home	gives you the meaning of words
stole my wallet	can support life
were hanging on the wall	cannot be explained

- 1 Helen works for a company *that makes furniture*
- 2 The book is about a girl
- 3 What happened to the pictures ?
- 4 A mystery is something
- 5 The police have arrested the man
- 6 A dictionary is a book
- 7 Alexander Bell was the man
- 8 It seems that Earth is the only planet

92.4 Are these sentences right or wrong? Correct them where necessary.

- 1 I don't like stories who have unhappy endings. *stories that have*
- 2 What was the name of the person who phoned? *OK*
- 3 Where's the nearest shop who sells bread?
- 4 The driver which caused the accident was fined £500.
- 5 Do you know the person that took these pictures?
- 6 We live in a world what is changing all the time.
- 7 Dan said some things about me that were not true.
- 8 What was the name of the horse it won the race?

Exercises

93.1 In some of these sentences you need **who** or **that**. Correct the sentences where necessary.

- | | | |
|---|--|-------------------------------|
| 1 | The woman lives next door is a doctor. | The woman who lives next door |
| 2 | Have you found the keys you lost? | OK |
| 3 | The people we met last night were very nice. | |
| 4 | The people work in the office are very nice. | |
| 5 | The people I work with are very nice. | |
| 6 | What have you done with the money I gave you? | |
| 7 | What happened to the money was on the table? | |
| 8 | What's the worst film you've ever seen? | |
| 9 | What's the best thing it has ever happened to you? | |

93.2 What do you say in these situations? Complete each sentence with a relative clause.

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| 1 | Your friend lost some keys. You want to know if he has found them. You say:
Have you found <u>the keys you lost</u> | ? |
| 2 | A friend is wearing a dress. You like it. You tell her:
I like the dress | . |
| 3 | A friend is going to see a film. You want to know the name of the film. You say:
What's the name of the film | ? |
| 4 | You wanted to visit a museum. It was shut when you got there. You tell a friend:
The museum was shut when we got there. | . |
| 5 | You invited some people to your party. Some of them couldn't come. You tell someone:
Some of the people couldn't come. | . |
| 6 | Your friend had to do some work. You want to know if she has finished. You say:
Have you finished the work | ? |
| 7 | You rented a car. It broke down after a few miles. You tell a friend:
The car broke down after a few miles. | . |

93.3 These sentences all have a relative clause with a preposition. Put the words in the correct order.

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| 1 | Did you find (looking / for / you / the books / were)?
Did you find <u>the books you were looking for</u> | ? |
| 2 | We couldn't go to (we / invited / to / were / the wedding).
We couldn't go to | . |
| 3 | What's the name of (the hotel / about / me / told / you)?
What's the name of | ? |
| 4 | Unfortunately I didn't get (applied / I / the job / for).
Unfortunately I didn't get | . |
| 5 | Did you enjoy (you / the concert / to / went)?
Did you enjoy | ? |
| 6 | Gary is a good person to know. He's (on / rely / can / somebody / you).
Gary is a good person to know. He's | . |
| 7 | Who was (the man / were / with / you) in the restaurant last night?
Who was in the restaurant last night? | . |

93.4 Put in **that** or **what** where necessary. If the sentence is already complete, leave the space empty.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 | I gave her all the money I had. (all the money that I had <i>is also correct</i>) |
| 2 | Did you hear <u>what</u> they said? |
| 3 | They give their children everything they want. |
| 4 | Tell me you want and I'll try to get it for you. |
| 5 | Why do you blame me for everything goes wrong? |
| 6 | I won't be able to do much, but I'll do I can. |
| 7 | I won't be able to do much, but I'll do the best I can. |
| 8 | I don't agree with you've just said. |
| 9 | I don't trust him. I don't believe anything he says. |

Relative clauses 3: **whose/whom/where****A** Whose

We use **whose** in relative clauses instead of **his/her/their**:

we helped some people – **their** car had broken down

→ We helped some people **whose** car had broken down.

We use **whose** mostly for people:

- A widow is a woman **whose husband is dead**. (her husband is dead)
- What's the name of the man **whose car you borrowed**? (you borrowed **his** car)
- I met someone **whose brother I went to school with**. (I went to school with **his/her** brother)

Compare **who** and **whose**:

- I met a man **who** knows you. (**he** knows you)
- I met a man **whose sister** knows you. (**his sister** knows you)

B Whom

Whom is possible instead of **who** when it is the *object* of the verb in the relative clause (like the sentences in Unit 93B):

- George is a person **whom I admire** very much. (I admire **him**)

You can also use **whom** with a preposition (**to whom** / **from whom** / **with whom** etc.):

- I like the people **with whom I work**. (I work **with them**)

Whom is a formal word and we do not often use it in this way. We usually prefer **who** or **that**, or nothing (see Unit 93). So we usually say:

- ... a person **who/that** I admire a lot or ... a person **I admire** a lot
- ... the people **who/that** I work with or ... the people **I work with**

C Where

You can use **where** in a relative clause to talk about a place:

the restaurant – we had lunch **there** – it was near the airport

→ The restaurant **where we had lunch** was near the airport.

- I recently went back to **the town where I grew up**.
(or ... the town I grew up in or ... the town **that** I grew up in)
- I would like to live in **a place where there is plenty of sunshine**.

D We say:

the day / the year / the time etc. { something happens or
that something happens

- I can't meet you on Friday. That's **the day (that) I'm going away**.
- The last time (that) I saw Anna**, she looked great.
- I haven't seen Jack and Helen since **the year (that) they got married**.

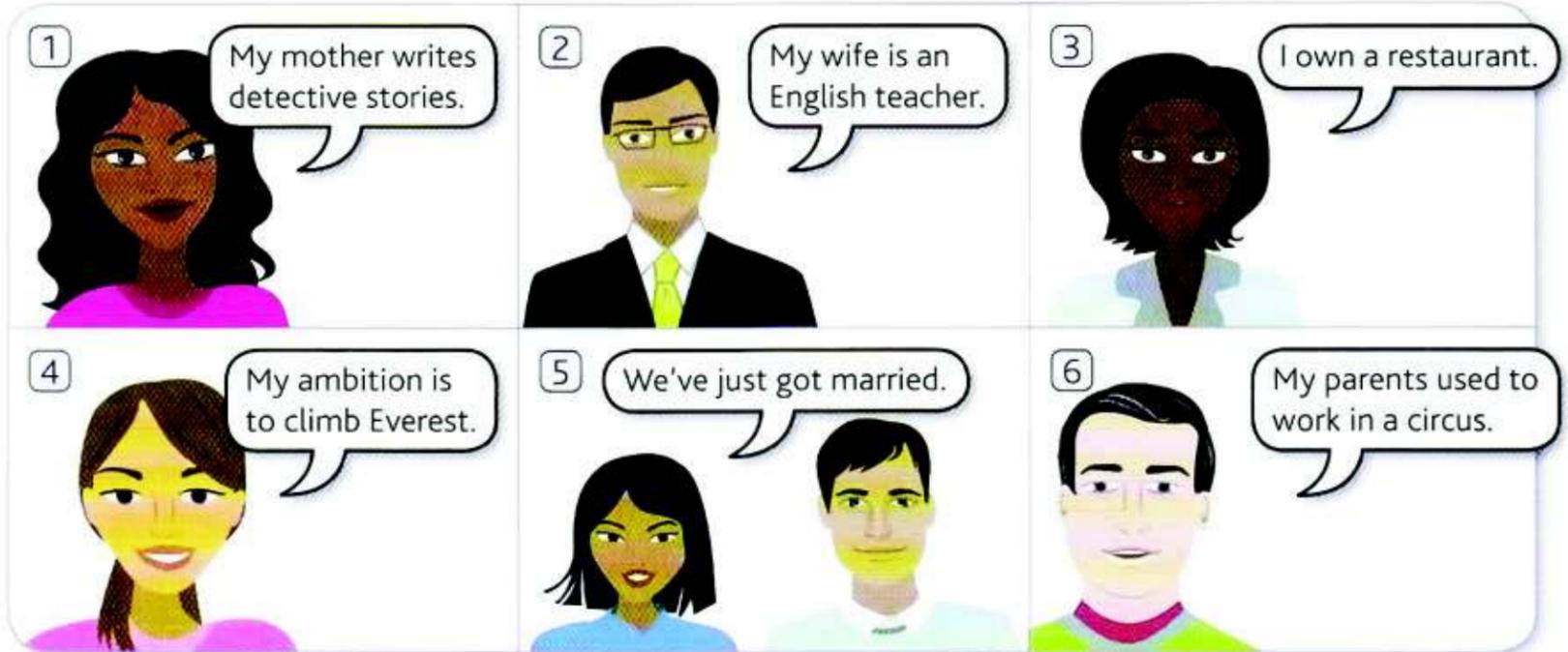
E We say:

the reason { something happens or
that/why something happens

- The reason I'm phoning** is to ask your advice.
(or The reason that I'm phoning / The reason **why** I'm phoning)

Exercises

94.1 You met these people at a party:



The next day you tell a friend about these people. Complete the sentences using **who** or **whose**.

- 1 I met somebody whose mother writes detective stories
- 2 I met a man
- 3 I met a woman
- 4 I met somebody
- 5 I met a couple
- 6 I met somebody

94.2 Read the situations and complete the sentences using **where**.

- 1 You grew up in a small town. You went back there recently. You tell someone this.
I recently went back to the small town where I grew up
- 2 You're thirsty and you want a drink. You ask a friend where you can get some water.
Is there a shop near here
- 3 You work in a factory. The factory is going to close down next month. You tell a friend.
The is going to close down next month.
- 4 Sue is staying at a hotel. You want to know the name of the hotel. You ask a friend.
Do you know the name of
- 5 You play football in a park on Sundays. You show a friend the park. You say:
This is the on Sundays.

94.3 Complete each sentence using **who/whom/whose/where**.

- 1 What's the name of the man whose car you borrowed?
- 2 A cemetery is a place people are buried.
- 3 A pacifist is a person believes that all wars are wrong.
- 4 An orphan is a child parents are dead.
- 5 What was the name of the person to you spoke on the phone?
- 6 The place we spent our holidays was really beautiful.
- 7 This school is only for children first language is not English.
- 8 The woman with he fell in love left him after a month.

94.4 Use your own ideas to complete these sentences. They are like the examples in Sections D and E.

- 1 I can't meet you on Friday. That's the day I'm going away
- 2 The reason was that the salary was too low.
- 3 I'll never forget the time
- 4 Do you remember the day
- 5 The reason is that they don't need one.
- 6 was the year