

Relative clauses

1. Defining:

- the information provided is necessary and cannot be omitted
- it is never separated with commas
The woman **who lives next door** is a doctor.
We met some people **whose car had broken down**.
- the used relative pronoun can be – among others – **that**
Rick sold the house **that** his grandfather built.
- if the relative clause has its own subject, the relative pronoun can be left out:
We stayed at the hotel (**that/which**) Ann recommended to us.
Your brother is the person (**who**) I met yesterday.
- the preposition in the relative clause can be put either after the verb,
I brought you the book (*that/which*) **I told you about**.
or before the relative pronoun (BUT it can never be **that!**)
I brought you the book **about which I told you**.
I brought you the book **about that** I told you.

2. Non-defining:

- the information provided is supplementary and can be omitted
- it is separated with commas
My brother Jim, **who is a doctor**, lives in London.
Colin told me about his new job, **which he's enjoying very much**.
- that** cannot be used as a relative pronoun here
We stayed at the Grand Hotel, **which** Ann recommended to us.
~~We stayed at the Grand Hotel, **that** Ann recommended to us.~~
- the preposition in the relative clause can be put either after the verb,
Mr Gray, **who you spoke to yesterday**, is our Personnel Manager.
or before the relative pronoun
Mr Gray, **to who(m) you spoke yesterday**, is our Personnel Manager.

	Defining	Non-defining
Important information	✓	✗
Separated with commas	✗	✓
<i>that</i> can be used	✓	✗
Pronoun can be omitted	✓ if it isn't the subject ✗ if it is the subject	✗
It is possible to make shortened sentences from them (with <i>-ing</i> / <i>-ed</i>)	✓	✓

	that	which	who	whose
Used in a defining clause	✓	✓	✓	✓
Used in a non-defining clause	✗	✓	✓	✓
Used after a preposition	✗	✓	✓	✓