

Unit 15

More on relative clauses

The new CEO, **who has just taken over the company**, vows to make the workplace open and vibrant.



I know that people **working here** are very innovative. I look forward to the day **on which we start a new chapter together**.

Grammar in Context

Theme: Successful people and amazing deeds

Words by Theme



Read the following news report and answer the questions.

Nameless Hero¹ Acknowledged² for Saving Life

On 25 July, **which** is World Drowning Prevention Day, a young man received a surprise on Facebook from a woman. The young man, **who** wished to remain anonymous³, saved this woman's life at Stanley Main Beach a few weeks ago.

On the Facebook post, there is a photo of a woman **holding** a custom-made medal **engraved** with 'My Saviour⁴'. The post reads, 'The medal is dedicated⁵ to my saviour, **to whom** I owe my life.' The woman in the photo is the one **whom** the young man saved from drowning. He remembered the day **on which** he saw a woman **struggling** in water. This young man, **jogging** along Stanley Main Beach every morning, saved her.

Though the medal is not an official one, the young man thinks it means a lot to him, 'It reminds me of the incident, **of which** the result could have been tragic. It also reminds me to continue doing good deeds.'

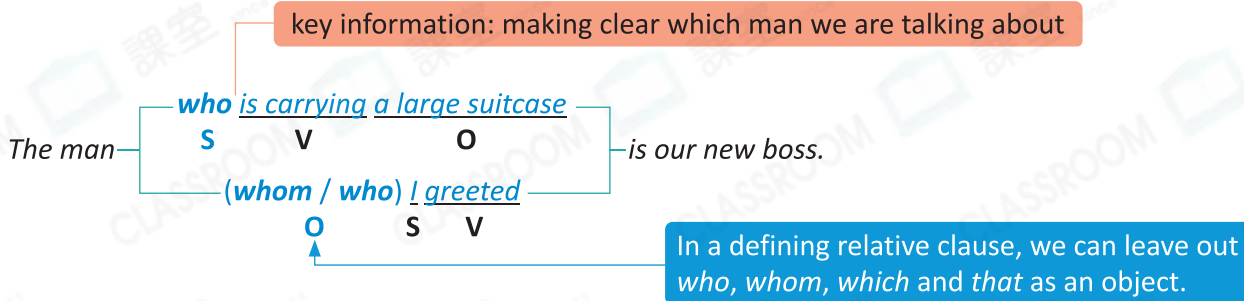


- Determine if the following statements are true (T) or false (F).
 - The young man was acknowledged on World Drowning Prevention Day.
 - The accident happening at Stanley Main Beach caused death.
- Rewrite each of the green words using *who* or *which*.
 - holding _____ who is holding _____
 - engraved _____
 - struggling _____
 - jogging _____
- The orange words are preposition + relative pronoun. What do the relative pronouns refer to?
 - whom my saviour
 - which _____
 - which _____

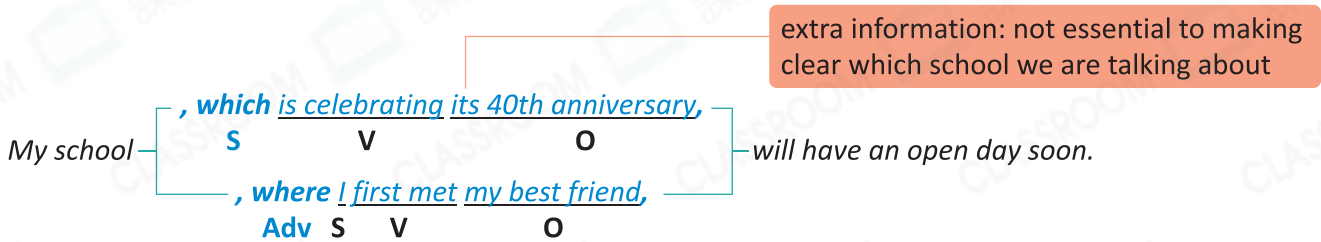
PART 1 Review of defining and non-defining relative clauses

In Book 2, we learnt to use defining relative clauses to give key information about nouns. We also learnt to use non-defining relative clauses to give extra information about nouns.

Defining relative clauses:

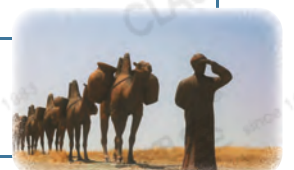


Non-defining relative clauses:



We use different relative pronouns for different types of nouns.

Nouns	Relative pronouns	Examples	
		Defining relative clauses	Non-defining relative clauses
People	who	The lady who wears glasses is my class teacher.	I'm calling my tutor, who has been 40 minutes late, to cancel the lesson.
	whom	The boy whom you are talking about has just passed by.	Larry, whom many of you have met before, is returning from abroad.
Things	which	Throw away the apples which are rotten.	The tropical island, which is mysterious and remote, intrigues me.
People / Things	that	The boy that is performing on stage is my cousin.	—
Possession	whose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anyone whose age is below 18 must not enter. We'll patch up the wall whose paint is falling off. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kathy, whose left leg has been deformed from birth, walks with a limp. This museum, whose history is long, houses many national antiques.
Places	where	Have you been to the café where you can see hedgehogs?	Terry used to live in Tokyo, where he studied as a university student.
Time	when	Do you remember the time (when) we first met?	Trade between the East and the West can be traced back to the Han Dynasty, when the Silk Road was created.
Reasons	why	Can you tell me the reason (why) you will be a great asset to our company?	—








Let's compare

Defining relative clauses	Non-defining relative clauses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Giving key information • Not separated by commas • The relative pronoun <i>that</i> can be used • Relative pronouns as the objects can be omitted <p><i>It is the worst film (which / that) I've ever seen.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Giving extra information • Always separated by commas • The relative pronoun <i>that</i> cannot be used • Relative pronouns cannot be omitted <p><i>Twilight, which is a lousy film adaptation, has disappointed its book fans.</i></p>

Exercise 1.1

Are the following sentences correct? Put a tick (✓) or a cross (X) in the brackets. To correct the mistake, put \wedge where appropriate to insert the word *and* / or punctuation mark. Underline the wrong word and write the correct word above it.

- I want to buy a pair of jeans^{which} \wedge has holes in the knees.  (X)
- The old woman whom John was climbing the stairs with is his grandmother.  ()
- Banksy, that painted *Balloon Girl*, is an influential graffiti artist.  ()
- I am passionate about baseball is my favorite pastime. ()
- She burst into tears at the moment when she heard the news. ()
- Let's go to a place we can talk without being disturbed.  ()
- This anime figure, whose is a limited edition, costs a fortune.  ()
- The reason why I am having a headache is that I went to bed with wet hair. ()

Exercise 1.2

Meg is writing an article about distracted driving. Complete the article by filling in the blanks with relative pronouns. Put commas in the brackets where necessary.

Distracted driving (1) (,) whose consequences could be serious (,) has been rising in recent years. More and more drivers are using their mobile phones at a time (2) () full attention is required. Some of them have become less alert to the conditions of urban roads (3) () can be very busy. Of the 640 drivers (4) () we interviewed, fewer than half of them regard reckless driving as the reason (5) () there has been a surge in the number of casualties on the roads. In Hong Kong (6) () the traffic is heavy, a driver (7) () commits careless driving () can be charged. Recent research showed that text messaging and drinking (8) () slow down drivers' reaction time by 35% and 12% respectively () are the major reasons for the increase in distracted driving accidents.



PART 2 Prepositions before relative pronouns

When prepositions come at the end of relative clauses, we can place them before the relative pronouns **which** and **whom**.

He is a good friend. I spend many hours chatting with him.

He is a good friend — **whom** I spend many hours chatting **with**.
 ↓
with whom I spend many hours chatting.

Prepositions	Examples
in	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I feel nostalgic for the house in which I spent my childhood. This project is led by a team in whom I have trust.
at	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The bus stop at which I wait every morning will be relocated. The tallest girl, at whom he is staring, is beautiful.
on	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The evidence on which I base my guess is strong. The employees on whom the tight deadlines have placed a burden are suffering burnout.
to	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A family dispute is a problem to which there are no easy solutions. The boy to whom I spoke just now is a newcomer.
from	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nathan is now working for the school from which he graduated. Mr Kwan, from whom I have learnt a lot, is retiring next year.
about	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Let us put off discussing the issue about which no consensus has been reached. This is the YouTuber about whom I have a lot to tell you.
for	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I have visited the bank for which my parents are working. The woman admitted to abusing her nephew, for whom she was the guardian.
with	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The topic with which the book deals is noteworthy. I have some nice colleagues with whom I get along.

Reminder

We can use preposition + **which** to replace the relative pronouns **where**, **when** and **why**.

- This is the farm **on which** I plant tomatoes. (= This is the farm **where** I plant tomatoes.)
- Summer is the season **in which** I plant tomatoes. (= Summer is the season **when** I plant tomatoes.)
- I know the reason **for which** they didn't grow. (= I know the reason **why** they didn't grow.)



DRILL

Exercise 2.1

Complete the sentences using preposition + **which** / **whom** with the help of the given words. Use commas where necessary.

That's why she has no friends.

You have spent all your pocket money on them.

She is getting useful advice from him.

Harold is skilled at many sports.

They rely on them to pay their mortgage.

Everyone is worried about him.

- Being rude to others is the reason for which she has no friends.
- Basketball is one of the many sports _____.
- Karen has been seeing the school counsellor _____.
- Mum wouldn't want to see those sneakers _____.
- We haven't been able to contact Sam _____.
- The couple has lost their incomes _____.

Level Up Exercise 2.2

Complete the letter of recommendation using the given prepositions and relative pronouns. The relative can be used MORE THAN ONCE.

from to of for about at on in + which whom

To whom it may concern,

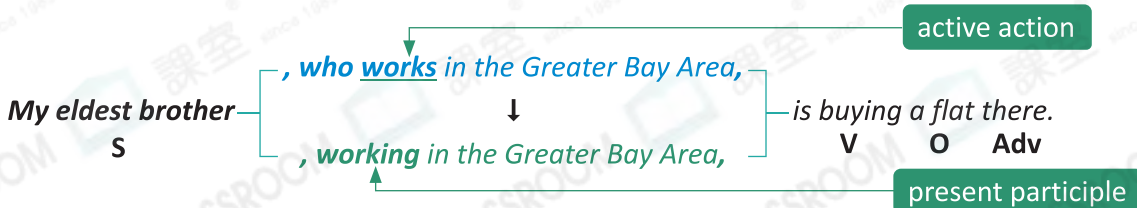
John is an outstanding student (1) on whom many teachers have positive comments. He has displayed diligence and intelligence, (2) _____ he should be proud. Mathematics is the subject (3) _____ he has shown keen interest and (4) _____ he is the most proficient. He always raises inspiring questions, (5) _____ I recognised his willingness to learn.

John has excellent conduct. His kindness to his fellows and his leadership are the reasons (6) _____ he has been given the Outstanding Student Award. He has also demonstrated great responsibility for serving the teachers, (7) _____ he always offers help. He is an exceptional student (8) _____ the teachers never have to worry ...



PART 3 Reduced relative clauses

We use participle phrases to reduce relative clauses that give information about the subject of a sentence.

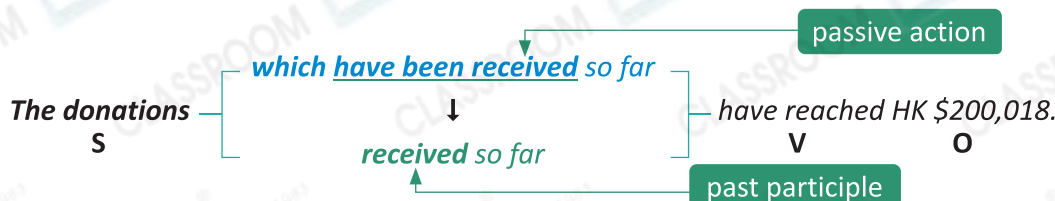


! X researching

I have just met Professor Law, who researches gender studies.

S V O

(We cannot reduce non-defining relative clauses that give information about the object of a sentence.)



Let's compare

Relative clauses with active verbs	Relative clauses with passive verbs
<p>Certain tenses (Simple present, present continuous etc) → present participle</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> People <u>who make</u> any purchases now will get a 10% discount. → making The man <u>who is standing</u> by the train doors looks like a friend of mine. → standing The charity <u>which is holding</u> a bazaar in the district is long-standing. → holding Jason, <u>who has been studying</u> hard, will perform well in the test. → studying 	<p>Continuous tenses → being + past participle</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The man <u>who is being beaten</u> is bleeding heavily. → being beaten <p>Future tenses → to be + past participle</p> <p>The number of students <u>who will be admitted</u> will reach its peak since the establishment of the university. → to be admitted</p> <p>Other tenses → past participle</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I could not find the time capsule, <u>which was buried</u> ten years ago. → buried



Exercise 3.1

Can the following relative clauses be reduced? If yes, put a tick (✓) in the brackets and change the underlined parts into participles. If no, put a cross (X) in the brackets.

- I heard some creepy sounds that were coming from the football field across the street. (✓)
- I bought that designer handbag, which costs more than half my salary. ()
- The milk that was purchased from the new supermarket is spoiled. ()
- She gave a speech, which inspired many people. ()
- The questionnaires which are being handed out to visitors are long. ()
- The clinic, which will be closed in 10 minutes, has stopped receiving patients. ()
- Martin collected books that were published by that century-old publishing house. ()



Exercise 3.2

Sue is reading a film review. Rewrite the underlined parts using participle phrases. Use commas where necessary.

A Separation (1), which focuses on an Iranian middle-class separated couple, was the first Iranian film winning the Oscars and the Golden Bear. It focuses on a couple (2) who hold very different views on various life problems. The wife (3), who hopes to make a better life for their daughter, insists on emigrating. The husband (4), who needs to care for his father with Alzheimer's, has no choice but to agree to divorce. The situation becomes more difficult when the caregiver (5) who has been hired to nurse the father suffers a miscarriage and the husband is accused of murder. I find this film rewarding

as it explores all sorts of conflicts **(6)** that exist in Iranian culture. It effectively depicts the conflicts between the traditional and modern perspectives, **(7)** which are represented by the husband and the wife respectively. The actors **(8)** that were cast in the film are exceptionally professional, especially the actress **(9)** who plays the wife.

Grammar Wrap-up

Frank is reading a short biography. Complete the biography using the correct form of the given words. Put commas in the brackets where necessary.

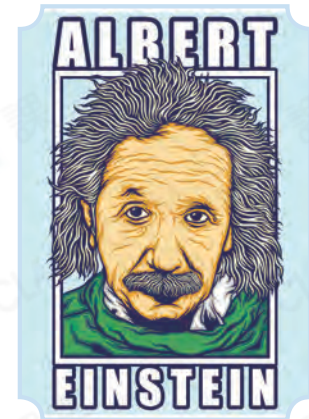
who when which where

about which from which from whom

call bear emphasise give

Albert Einstein: A Rebellious Wunderkind

Albert Einstein **(1)** (,) born in 1879 in Germany (,) is one of the world's most famous physicists. At four, Einstein had his first scientific experience **(2)** () _____ he developed an interest in science. It was about the pocket compass **(3)** () _____ to him by his father. He marvelled that its needle always points north.



Einstein spent his childhood in Munich **(4)** () _____ he was admitted to an elementary school. The school has very strict disciplinary policies **(5)** () _____ he had a strong opinion. He academically outperformed his fellow students **(6)** () _____ he kept his distance. At ten, he studied at the Luitpold Gymnasium, an institution **(7)** () _____ languages instead of mathematics and science. This upset him greatly. Later, he was inspired by a medical student **(8)** () _____ Max Talmud **(9)** () _____ was a frequent guest at his home.

Einstein's family moved to Italy in 1894 **(10)** () _____ he was expected to complete his studies in Munich. However, Einstein managed to get a doctor's note **(11)** () _____ provided him with an excuse for leaving school and moving to Italy ...



Brain Breaks

Why does a scarecrow deserve a Nobel Prize?

[field] (n.) = an area of activity or interest

Answer: It stands out in a field.



Grammar in Pre-DSE Text Type

Theme:
Successful people and amazing deeds

Joe is writing a speech. Complete the speech by circling the best answers.

Words by
Theme



Dear principal, teachers and students,

Words cannot express how excited I am to be here at my alma mater¹, the place (1) I first discovered my passion² for table tennis. There is no place (2) I feel more grateful. Here, I spent the happiest days of my childhood and met my best friends (3) I still see monthly.

There is no life story (4) beginning is as tough as mine. I have parents (5) me constantly. They ruined my childhood. My father, (6) everyone was afraid, beat me regularly and disapproved of my sporting pursuits³. Not performing well academically, I thought I had no future, a thought (7) my family seemed to agree. I happened to find refuge⁴ in playing table tennis under the guidance of Mr Lau (8) my PE teacher and coach at the time. From him, I learnt both table tennis skills and life lessons. We often had long conversations (9) my goal of becoming a professional athlete. He guided me through various inter-school competitions, (10) I had pretty great success.

After that, the path before me was smooth. I was subsidised by the Hong Kong Sports Institute, (11) I received professional training. In the 20XX Olympics Games, I won the silver medal at men's singles. The upcoming Games, (12) two years later, will be my Olympic swansong. These days, I'm considering following in Mr Lau's footsteps⁵ to become a coach.

Dear lads, just focus on your passion as I did! May you all become who you want to be!



(1) where / for which / to which

(2) where / to which / for which

(3) with whom / whom / , whom

(4) whose / that / in which

(5) belittle / belittling / belittled

(6) of whom / of which / of that

(7) on which / on whom / which

(8) , who was / , to be / that was

(9) centre on / centring on / to be centred on

(10) for which / with which / in which

(11) at which / at where / at whom

(12) holding / being held / to be held



More to take away

refuge (n.) = protection or shelter from danger, trouble or unhappiness

swansong (n.) = the last time that someone does something for which they are famous

In formal writing, prepositions can be placed before the relative pronouns *which* and *whom* to introduce relative clauses. Relative clauses can also be reduced to participle phrases for conciseness.

- Do you know the nun **who** devoted her life to the poor in India? (defining relative clause)
- Our principal, **who** is retiring soon, is a supportive leader. (non-defining relative clause)
- The project **on which** Yvonne has been working is shelved. (preposition + *which* / *whom*)
- Do you know the lady **waiting** at the entrance? (reduced relative clause)

Version 1

Jane has interviewed a well-known philanthropist for an online magazine. Read the interview and pay attention to the underlined parts.

Gareth Cheung: Passionately Prioritising Philanthropy

Philanthropist Gareth Cheung talks to *Century Magazine* about his generous charitable giving.

Century Magazine = CM

Gareth Cheung = GC

CM: (1) Did you have a special childhood? Did that inspire you to start giving?

GC: (2) I grew up in a poor neighbourhood. People there were always in need. When I managed to escape poverty, (3) I decided to give back to the community in a way that fulfills the moral obligations of the privileged. (4) Students that are raised in low-income families can hopefully have learning opportunities equal to those of their more advantaged peers. (5) That's the reason why I set up SMILE Foundation. (6) It is a charitable trust that sponsors tutorial classes and recreational activities for underprivileged students.

CM: Do you think that everyone has a duty to be a philanthropist?

GC: I don't think so. (7) People who live paycheck to paycheck do not have extra resources to do that. (8) Few people do not need to think about livelihood. Fortunately, I'm one of those few people.

CM: What has been your most memorable experience as a philanthropist?

GC: (9) Last month, I met a parent. Her kid was starting to learn the guitar in my sponsorship. (10) The kid could already play some simple chords. The tutor had only taught some basic skills to him. (11) The boy, who was being praised throughout the lesson, had a sense of achievement. (12) The parent, who was invited to observe the lesson, was thrilled to know that her child has an interest in playing the instrument ...



More to take away

live paycheck to paycheck (idiom) = to spend all of the money from one paycheck before receiving the next one

Version 2

Rewrite the underlined parts in Version 1 based on the instructions.

Gareth Cheung: Passionately Prioritising Philanthropy

Philanthropist Gareth Cheung talks to *Century Magazine* about his generous charitable giving.

Century Magazine = CM

Gareth Cheung = GC

CM: (1) Did you have a special childhood that inspired you to start giving? _____ (... *that* ...)

GC: (2) _____
 _____ (preposition + relative pronoun)

When I managed to escape poverty, (3) _____

_____ (reduced relative clause). (4) _____

_____ (reduced relative clause)

(5) _____
 _____ (preposition + relative pronoun)

(6) _____
 _____ (reduced relative clause)

CM: Do you think that everyone has a duty to be a philanthropist?

GC: I don't think so. (7) _____
 _____ (reduced relative clause)

(8) _____
 _____ (... *who* ...)

CM: What has been your most memorable experience as a philanthropist?

GC: (9) _____
 _____ (... *whose* ...)

(10) _____
 _____ (preposition + relative pronoun)

(11) _____
 _____ (reduced relative clause)

(12) _____
 _____ (reduced relative clause) ...

