

English With Nimafar

Relative Clauses

Overview:

- "Relative Clauses" is an Intermediate Grammar topic.
- At the end of this lesson, you will be able to use relative clauses

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What is a Clause?

A clause is a group of words that contains a subject and a verb. It is typically part of a larger sentence, and it can either stand alone as a sentence (Independent clauses) or not (Dependent clauses).

What is a Relative Clause?

A relative clause is a type of dependent clause that modifies a noun or pronoun in the main clause of a sentence and it begins with a relative pronoun.

What is a Relative Pronoun?

A relative pronoun is a type of pronoun that is used to introduce a relative clause. They refer back to a noun or pronoun in the main clause of a sentence and link the main clause to a subordinate clause.

Here is the list of relative pronouns:

- Which
- Who
- Whom
- Whose

- Where
- That

Which

We use which/that for animals and things.

Examples:

- This is the book which I read it every day.
- I love that old house, which has been in our family for generations.
- The city, which is famous for its architecture, attracts millions of tourists every year.
- The movie, which I saw last night, was really funny.
- The computer, which I bought last week, has some really cool features.

Who

We use who/that for humans. (Mostly if they are the subject of our relative clause)

Examples:

- The woman who is wearing the red hat is my friend.
- The man who taught me how to play guitar was my grandfather.
- The doctor who treated my grandmother was very kind.
- The singer who won the competition last year has a beautiful voice.

Whom

We use whom for humans when they are the object of our relative clause.

Examples:

- The person whom I spoke to on the phone was very helpful.
- The teacher whom I asked for help gave me some great advice.
- The candidate whom I voted for won the election.
- The friend whom I went to the movies with last night is a big fan of action films.

Note 1: We usually use a subject after "whom": The teacher whom I asked for help gave me some great advice.

Note 2: Even though it is allowed to use "who" instead of "whom" as objective relative pronouns in informal speech, in grammatical terms, as well as in formal speech, "whom" is correct.

Whose

"Whose" is a relative pronoun used to show ownership or possession. We use "whose" to introduce a relative clause that modifies a noun or pronoun in the main clause of a sentence.

Examples:

- The man whose dog barks all night is very inconsiderate.
- The company, whose profits have been steadily increasing, just announced a new product line.
- The book, whose cover was torn, was still worth reading.
- The girl, whose parents are both doctors, is very intelligent.

Where

We use "where" when we want to talk about places.

Examples:

- I stayed at a hotel where the staff were very friendly.
- The park, where we had a picnic, was beautiful.
- The museum, where we saw an exhibit on dinosaurs, was really interesting.
- The city, where I grew up, has changed a lot since I left.

Alternatives

We can use prepositions with "which" instead of other relative pronouns.

- In which = Where
- Of which = Whose

Also, we can bring a preposition of the verb to the beginning of "which" so as to avoid our sentence ending with a preposition.

Examples:

- The book **on which** he based his research was very informative. => Research **on**
- The house **in which** we are staying has a beautiful garden. => Stay **in**

- The car **with which** he won the race is in the museum now. => Win **with** [the car]
- The movie **for which** she won an Oscar was very emotionally moving. => Win an Oscar **for** [the movie]

Of Which & Of Whom

Pay attention to the examples below.

Example:

- The woman, whose husband is a famous actor, was interviewed on television.
- The house, whose roof was damaged in the storm, is in need of repairs.
- The student, whose grades have been steadily improving, was awarded a scholarship.
- The restaurant, whose chef is known for his delicious desserts, is always crowded.

Now we will change "whose" to "of + which/whom" (Whom for humans and Which for things and animals.):

- The woman, of whom her husband is a famous actor, was interviewed on television.
- The house, the roof of which was damaged in the storm, is in need of repairs.
- The student, the grades of whom have been steadily improving, was awarded a scholarship.
- The restaurant, the chef of which is known for his delicious desserts, is always crowded.

Advanced Tip

A restrictive clause provides essential information about the noun or pronoun that it modifies and is not separated by commas. On the other hand, a non-restrictive clause (AKA Extra Information) provides non-essential information and is separated by commas.

Because of that, we can only omit the non-restrictive clause. the restrictive clause cannot be omitted in contrast.

Example:

The man **who is wearing** the red shirt is my friend. (We cannot remove it.)

My friend, ~~who is wearing a red shirt,~~ is here. (We can remove it.)

Advanced Tip

Non-restrictive clauses are separated by commas and require the use of "which" or "who".
(Do NOT use "that" after commas.)

Advanced Tip

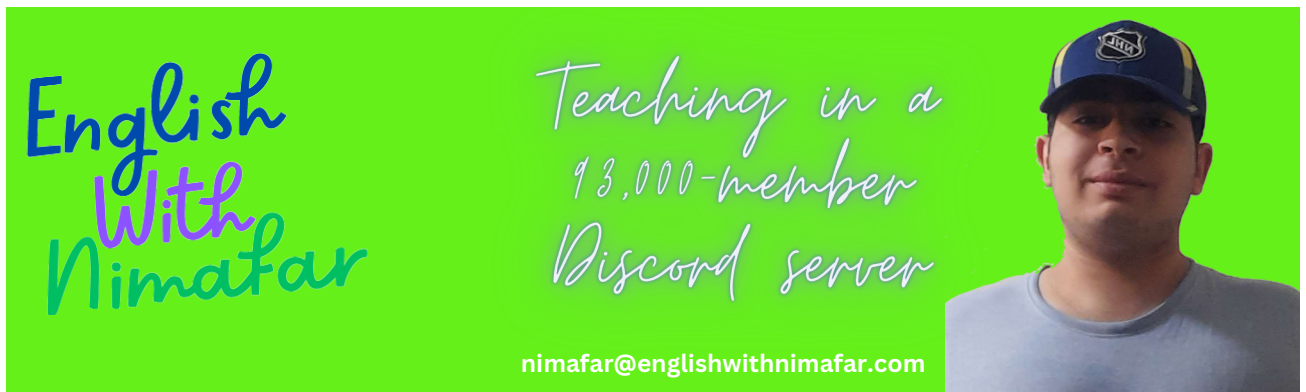
Use commas correctly: When a relative clause is non-restrictive, separate it from the main clause with commas. When it's restrictive, don't use commas.

Examples

1. The man who I met at the conference is a leading expert in his field.
2. The company that developed the new software is based in Silicon Valley.
3. The house, which was built in the 1800s, has a lot of history.
4. The project that we worked on last month was a huge success.
5. The professor who teaches the course is widely respected in the academic community.
6. The article which you recommended to me was very informative.
7. The team that won the championship deserves a lot of credit.
8. The movie which I saw last night was directed by a famous filmmaker.
9. The artist whose work I admire is having an exhibit next month.
10. The book that I read last week was written by a Nobel Prize-winning author.
11. The woman, whose brother is a famous actor, is also a successful actress.
12. The city, where I used to live, has changed a lot in the last few years.
13. The company, whose founder passed away last year, continues to thrive under new leadership.
14. The museum, where I saw some really impressive artwork, is definitely worth a visit.
15. The boy, whose parents are both lawyers, is very articulate and persuasive.
16. The coffee shop, where I like to work, has a great atmosphere and good Wi-Fi.
17. The store, whose selection of organic produce is unparalleled, is where I do all my grocery shopping.
18. The hotel, where we stayed on our vacation, had a beautiful view of the ocean.
19. The team, whose coach is a former professional athlete, has been dominating their league.
20. The book, whose author is known for her vivid descriptions of nature, is a must-read for nature lovers.

21. The company, the success of which can be attributed to its innovative business model, has revolutionized the industry.
22. The museum, the collection of which includes rare artefacts from ancient civilizations, is one of the most acclaimed in the world.
23. The book, the central theme of which is the human struggle for freedom, has become a classic of 20th-century literature.
24. The city, the architecture of which reflects a unique blend of traditional and modern styles, is a popular tourist destination.
25. The team, the members of which are all renowned experts in their respective fields, is tackling some of the world's biggest challenges.
26. The company for which I work has a very competitive benefits package.
27. The street on which the coffee shop is located can be tricky to navigate.
28. The room in which the meeting is being held is equipped with the latest technology.
29. The project with which I am currently involved is aimed at reducing carbon emissions.
30. The restaurant at which we had dinner last night is known for its authentic cuisine.

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