

# Defining and non-defining relative clauses

<b>Non-defining relative clauses</b>
<p><b>Use</b> We use non-defining relative clauses to give extra information about the person or thing in the main clause. The extra information is not essential. <i>Robbie Williams' Millennium, which is one of his most successful singles, was released in 1999.</i></p> <p><b>Form</b> In non-defining relative clauses we put a comma before and after the main clause. We use the relative pronouns <i>who, which, whose, where</i> and <i>when</i> in non-defining relative clauses. The relative pronoun cannot be omitted. <i>Mark Smith, who lives next door to us, plays in a band.</i></p>

<b>Defining relative clauses</b>
<p><b>Use</b> We use defining relative clauses to give essential information about the person or thing in the main clause. It tells us which person or thing we are talking about. <i>This is the CD which everyone is talking about.</i></p> <p><b>Form</b> There are no commas in defining relative clauses. We can replace <i>who</i> or <i>which</i> with <i>that</i> in defining relative clauses. <i>She's the woman that works with my mother.</i> <i>This is the book that I told you about.</i></p> <p><i>Who, which, that</i> and <i>when</i> can be omitted when they are the object of the verb in the second clause, e.g. <i>There's the man <del>that</del> the police have been looking for.</i> <i>Whose</i> and <i>where</i> can't be omitted.</p>

**1 Combine the sentences. Use *who, which, whose, where* or *when*.**

Ivan is very good-looking. (He's Helen's brother.)  
*Ivan, who is Helen's brother, is very good-looking.*

- 1 The book is about a murder on the Nile. (It was written by Agatha Christie.)  
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- 2 The diamond necklace has been found by the police. (It was stolen last week.)  
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- 3 Steven Spielberg lives in Hollywood. (He is a famous film director.)  
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- 4 My friend Isabel wants to do media studies. (Her father is a TV presenter.)  
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- 5 The new club plays great music. (Jamie works there.)  
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- 6 My holiday in Ibiza was wonderful. (I first met Jenny then.)  
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- 7 The new band is very good. (It was formed last year.)  
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**2 Combine the sentences. Use *who, which, that, where* or *when*.**

That's the school. I used to go to it.  
*That's the school that I used to go to.*

- 1 There's the girl. I was telling you about her.  
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- 2 That was the day. They got married then.  
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- 3 She's the girl. Her brother plays in the football team.  
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- 4 That's the café. I meet my friends there.  
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- 5 This is the film. I've been waiting to see it for ages.  
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- 6 Have you met the girl? She's going out with Ted.  
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- 7 These are the trainers. I bought them yesterday.  
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**1 Combine the sentences. Use *who, which, whose, where* or *when*.**

Ivan is very good-looking. (He's Helen's brother.)  
*Ivan, who is Helen's brother, is very good-looking.*

- 1 The book, who is about a murder on the Nile, was written by Agatha Christie.)
- 2 The diamond necklace which It was stolen last week has been found by the police.
- 3 Steven Spielberg, who is a famous film director, lives in Hollywood.
- 4 My friend Isabel, whose father is a TV presenter, wants to do media studies.
- 5 The new club where Jamie works plays great music.
- 6 My holiday in Ibiza, when I first met Jenny, was wonderful.
- 7 The new band which was formed last year.

**2 Combine the sentences. Use *who, which, that, where* or *when*.**

That's the school. I used to go to it.  
*That's the school that I used to go to.*

- 1 There's the girl (who/that) I was telling you about.
- 2 That was the day when they got married.
- 3 She's the girl whose brother plays in the football team.
- 4 That's the café where I meet my friends.
- 5 This is the film (that /which) I've been waiting to see for ages.
- 6 Have you met the girl who's going out with Ted?
- 7 These are the trainers (that/which) I bought yesterday.