

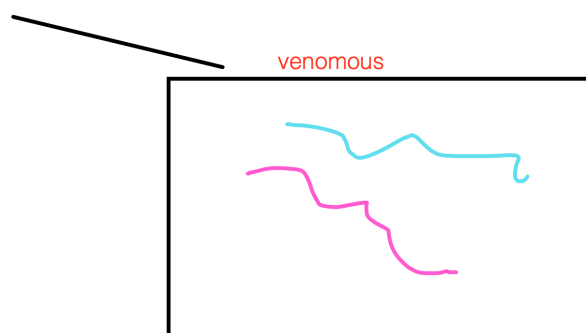
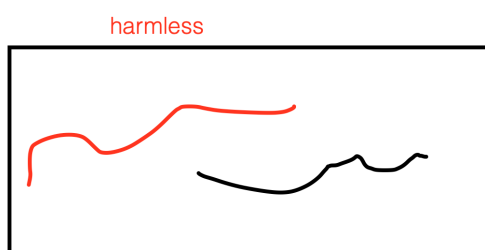
Relative Clause

A relative clause is an extra section of a sentence which contains information about a noun or a situation in the main clause.

Defining clause:

I am afraid of snakes **which** are venomous.

I am afraid of snakes **that** are venomous.



There are different ways of 'seeing' a sentence:

We can focus on the relative clause:

The boys who broke the window were arrested by the police.

'**who broke the window**' tells me essential information about the boys

Or we can focus on the noun phrase, which contains the relative clause:

The boys who broke the window *were arrested* by the police.

'**The boys who broke the window**' is a noun phrase, acting as an object in this sentence.

There are two types of relative clause:

- Defining
- Non-defining

In this document we focus on the defining clause:

Defining:

- the information in the extra clause is essential to the meaning of the sentence
- we do not use commas when we introduce it
- we generally use a pronoun: who & which most commonly
- we can replace the pronoun with 'that'
- we can omit the pronoun when it is the object of the relative clause

Let's look at some examples:

towels/dirty/should/remove/bathroom

The towels **which** are dirty should be removed from the bathroom.

The towels **that** are dirty should be removed from the bathroom.

~~The towels are dirty should be removed from the bathroom.~~

In this example it is not possible to omit the pronoun 'which/that'. This is because the pronoun is not the object of a verb in the relative clause. In fact, there is no verb, just an adjective - 'dirty' so it is impossible!

towels/ you / fold/ should / put in / bathroom

The towels **which** you folded should be put in the bathroom.

The towels **that** you folded should be put in the bathroom.

The towels you folded should be put in the bathroom.

In this example we can omit the pronoun 'which/that' because the pronoun is the object of the verb in the relative clause - 'folded'.

More examples of a) changing the pronoun and b) omission of the pronoun:

- neighbour borrows / lawnmower / 3 mths ago

I want the lawnmower **which** you borrowed 3 months ago.

I want the lawnmower **that** you borrowed 3 months ago.

I want the lawnmower you borrowed 3 months ago.

- book / read / last week / fantastic

The book **which** I read last week was fantastic.

The book **that** I read last week was fantastic.

The book I read last week was fantastic.

- kebab / Noor's house / eat / delicious / taste

The kebab **which** I ate in Noor's house tasted delicious.

The kebab **that** I ate in Noor's house tasted delicious.

The kebab I ate in Noor's house tasted delicious.