

Non-Defining Relative Clauses - Review

Quick review of relative clauses:

- A relative clause is a section of a sentence **that** gives information about a noun or a situation in the main clause.

Defining relative clause

- information is ESSENTIAL to the meaning of the sentence
- we don't use COMMAS
- we can replace the pronoun with **'THAT'**
- when the PRONOUN is the OBJECT of the verb in the relative clause we can OMIT it
- often defining relative clauses form part of a larger NOUN / NOUN PHRASE

Non-Defining Clauses

- information is not essential to the meaning of the sentence
- we do use commas
- we cannot replace the pronoun with **'that'**
- when the relative pronoun is the object of the verb in the relative clause we do not omit it
- can go in the middle of the main clause
- can go at the end of a main clause
- can be extended but after the conjunction 'and' we do not repeat the subject
- can relate to a noun or a situation in the main clause

Exercise 1

Make some sentences with non-defining relative clauses from the prompts:

- recently/buy new vase/table/front room
- love coffee/grow/hot countries

Exercise 2

Look at the below sentences and choose which are correct. Defining or non-defining? Please fix the incorrect sentences:

1. My summer house which is in France is very big.
2. Sarah Smith has been treated with antibiotics, for which she needs to take them twice a day.
3. I love watching sport, which is why I have a subscription to the sports channel.
4. Did you see the news report about the boy that had the hiccups for 3 years?
5. I am writing about Jane Ferguson, who recently underwent a hemiarthroplasty and needs assistance at home.
6. Sarah who was in my year at school is now a doctor.
7. My house has thin walls, which is really annoying!
8. Joanne's new cat has long hair which is really beautiful.

Exercise 3

Should it be a defining or non-defining clause? Write the sentences and find out!

- 1) I lent my lawnmower to my neighbour. I want it back.
- 2) Sister/New York/very rich (I have three sisters)
- 3) My garden/small/one big tree
- 4) John / fix/ plate/break

Answers

Exercise 1

- recently/buy new vase/table/front room
 - I have bought a new vase, **which** is on the table in the front room.
 - Recently, I bought a new vase, **which** is now on the table in the front room.
 - I have bought a new vase recently, **which** is on the table in the front room
 - That new vase, **which** is on the table in the front room, is beautiful.
 - I have recently bought a new vest, which is on the front table.
- love coffee/grow/hot countries
 - I love coffee, **which** is grown in hot countries.
 - Many people love coffee, **which** is grown in hot countries.
 - He loves coffee, especially that which grows in hot countries.
 - Once upon a time, I loved coffee, **which** grows in hot countries.

Exercise 2

1. My summer house, which is in France, is very big.
2. Sarah Smith has been treated with antibiotics, which she needs to take twice a day.
3. I love watching sport, which is why I have a subscription to the sports channel.
4. Did you see the news report about the boy that had the hiccups for 3 years?
5. I am writing about Jane Ferguson, who recently underwent a hemiarthroplasty, and needs assistance at home.
6. Sarah, who was in my school year, is now a doctor.
7. My house has thin walls, which is really annoying!
8. Joanne's new cat has long hair, which is really beautiful.

Exercise 3

1) I lent my lawnmower to my neighbour. I want it back.

~~The lawnmower, I lent to my neighbor, I want it back.~~

- I lent my neighbour my lawnmower, which I want ~~it~~ back.
- I want my lawnmower ~~back~~, which I lent to my neighbour.
- I want the lawnmower I lent to my neighbour back.

2) Sister/New York/very rich (I have three sisters)

My sister that is in New York is very rich.

3) My garden/small/one big tree

My garden, which has a big tree, is small.

My garden, in which there is a big tree, is small.

My garden, which is small, has a big tree,

4) John / fix/ plate/break

John fixed a plate, which was broken.

John fixed a broken plate.

John fixed a plate he had broken.

The plate which John broke was finally fixed.