

## 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.*

There are different ways of 'cutting up' a sentence:

We can focus on the relative clause:

- The boys **that broke the window** were arrested by the police.

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

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

**There are two types of relative clause:**

- 1) Defining relative clauses contain **essential information**.
- 2) Non-defining relative clauses contain **non-essential information**.

**Relative pronouns are used to introduce relative clauses:**

<b>who</b>	people /a person
<b>which</b>	things/objects
<b>that</b>	anything - only in defining relative clauses
<b>for which</b>	introduces a solution to a problem in the main clause
<b>in which</b>	'which' means the noun in the previous sentence. You have to understand the preposition to understand how it works.
<b>on which</b>	
<b>of which</b>	
<b>into which</b>	
<b>about which</b>	

## Defining Relative Clauses

- 1) defining relative clauses are essential to the meaning we want for the sentence
- 2) we do not use commas
- 3) we can replace the pronoun with 'that'
- 4) in some cases we can omit the pronoun - when the pronoun is the object of the relative clause

### Example

I have three uncles. One lives in Spain and the others live in Greece.

So, we can say: **My uncle who lives in Spain is generous.**

1) **The information 'who lives in Spain' is essential** here - we need to know this to show he is different from the other two uncles.

2) Note that **there are no commas!**

3) **We can replace the pronoun with 'that' in defining clauses:**

**My uncle that lives in Spain is generous.**

4) **We can omit the pronoun when the pronoun is the object of the verb in the relative clause:**

My neighbour borrowed my TV last week.

I want **the TV (which/that)\*** I lent to my neighbour last week.

\* can be removed because it is the object of the verb 'lent'

Did you try the sandwich (which/that)\* I ate earlier?

\* can be removed because it is the object of the verb 'ate'

### Compare:

They were the boys who/that\* broke the window.

\* cannot be removed because it is not the object of the verb 'broke'