

## Relative Clauses

### What is a relative clause?

It is a section of a sentence which gives extra information about a noun or a situation in the main clause.

### Non-defining relative clauses

main clause

relative clause

- The research project, **which** was funded by the UN, achieved its main aims.
- Hospitals in the UK have experienced underfunding, **which** means that they are generally not meeting their targets.
- Private hospitals mainly treat wealthy patients, **who** can afford the fees. (not essential)

### Defining relative clauses

We can look at these sentences as having noun phrases as objects, instead of focusing on the relative clause:

- I lost the prescription **which/that** my GP gave me. (essential information)
- I saw the man **who/that** stole my bike.
- The leg **which/that** has the wound needs to be amputated.

## Pronouns

Pronoun	Function
who	People
which	Things / Situations
that	Used only defining clauses. Can replace who/which.
for which	introduces solutions to problems in the main clause  Example: He told me he was having headaches, <b>for which</b> I gave him paracetamol.
in / at / of / under which	Uses preposition to show where / when:  The cinema, <b>at which</b> I first met my husband, has closed.  The bed, <b>under which</b> I dropped my pen, was moved.

### Exercise 1

Choose the correct pronoun for the sentences below:

1. I referred Mrs Smith to Dr Johnson, ..... is a pulmonary specialist.
2. Britain, ..... is an island near Europe, has a free healthcare service.
3. Mrs Harris was diagnosed with hypertension, .....anti-hypertensives were prescribed.
4. My GP, ..... I have been going to for 25 years, has moved her surgery.
5. The lung, .....numerous tumours were found, was removed.
6. The treatment, ..... started six months ago and is very expensive, has been successful so far.

### Golden rules for Non-Defining Relative Clauses

1) The information is not essential
2) We always introduce the clause with a comma
3) We always introduce the clause with a relative pronoun
4) We never change the pronoun to 'that'
5) The clause can be in the middle or at the end of the main clause
6) We can extend a relative clause – we don't need to repeat the pronoun
7) We can either refer to a noun or the whole situation in relative clause

### Exercise 2

Spot the errors and fix them:

- 1) Paracetamol which helps with pain is suitable for Mrs Smith
- 2) Mr Johnson should use sterile gauze for his dressings which is available at reception.
- 3) Which is a hospital acquired infection, your mother has MRSA.
- 4) I'd like to introduce Dr Smith who is a surgeon in the Orthopaedic department.
- 5) Dr Edwards who does a lot of open heart operations at this hospital is going to come along shortly for a chat.
- 6) We understand that you have some questions, that the nurse can help you with.

### Exercise 3

Make sentences with relative clauses, using the prompts below:

1. Mrs Strype / signs / regarding / admit / symptoms / pneumonia / I am writing

2. infected ulcer / prescribed / Mrs Danns / antibiotics / diagnosed

3. successful / Mr Smith / 7<sup>th</sup> April / undergo / cholecystectomy

---

## Answers

### Exercise 1

Choose the correct pronoun for the sentences below:

1. I referred Mrs Smith to Dr Johnson, **who** is a pulmonary specialist.
2. Britain, **which** is an island near Europe, has a free healthcare service.
3. Mrs Harris was diagnosed with hypertension, **for which** anti-hypertensives were prescribed.
4. My GP, **who** I have been going to for 25 years, has moved her surgery.
5. **The lung, in which / where** numerous tumours were found, **was removed**.
6. **The treatment, which** started six months ago and is very expensive, **has been successful so far**.

### Exercise 2

- 1) **Paracetamol, which** helps with pain, **is suitable** for Mrs Smith.
- 2) **Mr Johnson** should use **sterile gauze, which** is available at reception, **for his dressings**.
- 3) Your mother has **MRSA, which** is a hospital acquired infection.
- 4) I'd like to introduce **Dr Smith, who** is a surgeon in the Orthopaedic department.
- 5) **Dr Edwards, who** does a lot of open heart operations at this hospital, **is going to come along shortly for a chat**.
- 6) We understand that you have **some questions, which** the nurse can help you with.

### Exercise 3

Make sentences with relative clauses, using the prompts below:

1. Mrs Strype / **signs** / regarding / admit / **symptoms** / **pneumonia** / I am writing

- I am writing regarding Mrs Strype, **who** was admitted with the signs and symptoms of pneumonia.
- I am writing regarding Mrs Strype, **who** had signs and symptoms of pneumonia and was admitted to our hospital.

2. infected ulcer / prescribed / Mrs Danns / antibiotics / diagnosed

diagnosis + solution

Mrs Danns was diagnosed with an infected ulcer, **for which** antibiotics were prescribed.

Mrs Danns was prescribed antibiotics, **which** were for her infected ulcer.

Mrs Danns, **who** was diagnosed with an infected ulcer, **was** prescribed antibiotics.

Mrs Danns, **who** was prescribed antibiotics, **was** diagnosed with an infected ulcer.

3. successful / Mr Smith / 7<sup>th</sup> April / undergo / cholecystectomy

On 7<sup>th</sup> April, Mr Smith underwent a cholecystectomy, **which** was successful.