

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

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. |
| <p>Main clause: reason for the sentence – the main idea Relative clause: giving extra information</p> |
| <h3>Defining relative clauses</h3> <p>We can look at these sentences as having noun phrases as objects, instead of focusing on the relative clause:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I lost the prescription which/that my GP gave me. 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 / events |
| that | any noun – but only in defining clauses |
| for which | the noun in the relative clause is a solution to the problem in the main clause |
| in / at / of / under which | <p>That is the house in which I lived when I was young.</p> <p>I lived in that house when I was young.</p> <p>That's the bus stop at which the 57 will stop.</p> <p>The 57 bus will stop at that bus stop.</p> |

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

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|---|
| 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 simple noun or a situation/event in the 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 / 7th 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 / 7th April / undergo / cholecystectomy

On 7th April, Mr Smith underwent a cholecystectomy, **which** was successful.