Relative Clauses: Summary

Relative clauses act as adjectives to add information to a **noun** in a **main clause**.

The **relative clause** is placed directly after the **noun** it modifies.

Relative clauses begin with a **relative pronoun** – *that / which / who / whom / whose.*

The **relative pronoun** replaces the **noun** being modified in the **main clause**.

The **relative pronoun** can either be the **subject** or **object** of the verb in the **relative clause**.

Relative clauses that are necessary to identify a specific noun are called **defining relative clauses**.

Relative clauses that are not necessary to identify a noun are called **non-defining relative clauses**.

Use **commas** to separate a **non-defining relative clause**.

Only use ***that*** in a **defining relative clause**.

© yourENGLISHPAL.com

SUBJECT RELATIVE CLAUSES

The relative pronoun is the subject of the verb

main clause | **noun to modify** | relative clause | **subject** | **object**

EXAMPLE 1: defining

The bus has been cancelled. **The bus** goes to Manchester.

The bus | **that** goes to Manchester | has been cancelled.

Don't add an extra subject:

The bus | **that** ~~**it**~~ goes to Manchester | has been cancelled.

EXAMPLE 2: non-defining

We visited **Riga**. **Riga** is the capital of Latvia.

We visited **Riga**, | **which** is the capital of Latvia.

Don't add an extra subject:

We visited **Riga**, | **which** ~~**it**~~ is the capital of Latvia.

OBJECT RELATIVE CLAUSES

The relative pronoun is the object of the verb

EXAMPLE 1: defining

My brother bought **the car**. **Daniel** recommended **the car**.

My brother bought **the car** | **that Daniel** recommended.

Don't add an extra object:

My brother bought **the car** | **that Daniel** recommended ~~**it**~~.

EXAMPLE 2: non-defining

My brother has got a new job. **You** met **my brother** last week.

My brother, | **whom you** met last week, | has got a new job.

Don't add an extra object:

My brother, | **whom you** met ~~**him**~~ last week, | has got a new job.

© yourENGLISHPAL.com