

## THEME 8 DIGITAL ERA GRAMMAR

### RELATIVE CLAUSES

A Relative Clause is the sentence which modifies the noun. Yet, it cannot be used alone. Usually the adjective clause follows the noun it describes. We use relative clauses to combine two simple sentences in which there are two identical noun phrases.

### DEFINING RELATIVE CLAUSES

#### RELATIVE PRONOUNS AS SUBJECT OF THE CLAUSE

There are mainly three relative pronouns. They are Who, Which and That.

“**Who**” is used for people.

“**Which**” is used for things and animals.

“**That**” is used for people, things, and animals.

If the noun we will define is in the position of subject in the defining sentence, we can replace pronouns like “he, she, it, they” with “that, which, who”.

#### Examples: (WHO)

A dentist is a person. He gives dental treatment.



A dentist is a person who/that gives dental treatment.

I hate people. They tell lies.



I hate people who/that tell lies.

We know a lot of people. They live in Manisa.

We know a lot of people who/that live in Manisa.

A vegetarian is someone. He/she never eats meat.

A vegetarian is someone who/that never eats meat.

Do you know the man? He discovered Africa.

Do you know the man who/that discovered Africa?

The teacher was very strict. He taught us last term.

The teacher who/that taught us last term was very strict.

Note: The relative Pronoun comes just after the word it refers to.

The man was drunk. He caused the accident.

The man who was drunk caused the accident. (~~The man was drunk who caused the accident.~~)

The man is in the room. He is reading a newspaper.

The man who is reading a newspaper is my uncle.

#### Examples: (WHICH)

This is the horse. It kicked me.

This is the horse which/that kicked me.

The nails are rusty. They are in the tool-box.

The nails which/that are in the tool-box are rusty.

A cow is an animal. It supplies us with milk.

A cow is an animal which/that supplies us with milk.

Where are the eggs? They were in the fridge.  
Where the eggs are which/that were in the fridge?

Mahmut works for the company. It makes software viruses.  
Mahmut works for the company which/that makes software viruses.

**\*\*\* We can also replace possessive pronouns like “his/her/its” with “whose”.**

A widow is a woman. Her husband is dead.  
A widow is a woman whose husband is dead.

What was the name of the man? His car broke down  
What was the name of the man whose car broke down?

I know someone. Her father is a translator.  
I know someone whose father is a translator.

**Although the group names such as “crowd, audience, class” are of people, they are used with which/that.**

There was a big crowd. It soon gathered at the scene of the accident.  
There was a big crowd which/that gathered at the scene of the accident.

**\*\*\* Relative Pronouns have the same form when they refer to masculine, feminine, singular or plural nouns. The verb in adjective clause must be singular if the subject of the relative pronoun refers to a singular noun. If plural, then the verb will be in the plural form:**

The person who speaks good English **is** a doctor.  
The people who live next door **are** doctors  
The plates which are on the table **are** very dirty.  
The man who lives next to us **has** got a huge dog.  
The men who went to the USA **were** very affluent.

## **EXERCISES**

### **A. Match the nouns with the definitions.**

1. A pedestrian is someone ...
  2. A compass is an instrument ...
  3. A kidnapper is someone ...
  4. A customer is a person ...
  5. An ostrich is a large bird ...
  6. A ruler is something ...
  7. A referee is a person ...
  8. An orphan is a child ...
  9. A cabbage is a vegetable ...
  10. An organ is a musical instrument ...
- a. that has wings, but can't fly.
  - b. which helps us measure lengths or draw straight lines.
  - c. which looks like a piano.
  - d. who is walking in a street, not traveling in a vehicle.
  - e. which is rich in vitamin c.
  - f. who buys something, esp. from a shop.
  - g. who has lost his parents by birth.
  - h. that is used for finding directions.
  - i. who has taken a person, usually a child, away by force and is demanding money for his safe return.
  - j. who controls a sports match or contest

### **B. Put in WHO / WHICH**

1. I met a woman \_\_\_\_\_ can speak six languages
2. What's the name of the man \_\_\_\_\_ lives next door?
3. What's the name of the river \_\_\_\_\_ goes through the town?
4. Everybody \_\_\_\_\_ went to the party enjoyed it very much
5. Do you know anybody \_\_\_\_\_ wants to buy a car?
6. Where is the picture \_\_\_\_\_ was on the wall?
7. She always asks me questions \_\_\_\_\_ are difficult to answer
8. I have a friend \_\_\_\_\_ is very good at repairing cars
9. A coffee-maker is a machine \_\_\_\_\_ makes coffee
10. Why does he always wear clothes \_\_\_\_\_ are too small for him?

**C. Combine the sentences using RELATIVE PRONOUNS who, which or that**

1. The man will be very rich. The man won the first prize last week.
2. The girl is very beautiful. She is sitting next to me.
3. The girl is my father's secretary. The girl had an accident yesterday.
4. The man rushed into the bank. He was wearing a silk stocking over his face.
5. The books are lying on the table. They are very interesting.
6. The woman cannot play tennis very well. She has poor eyesight.
7. The fire started on the third floor. It destroyed the whole building.
8. The aero plane frightened the students. It was flying very low over the school.
9. The doctor is on holiday now. He usually attends my mother.

**D. Combine the following pairs of sentences making the second one a Relative clause. Use the relative pronoun "whose".**

1. Yusuf got married to a woman. Her family lives in Bigadiç.
2. The girl was saving money to go to England. Her father works in a bank.
3. The man seems to be very happy. His house is full of children.
4. The policeman speaks French wonderfully. His family stayed in France for four years.
5. The girl cried bitterly. Her doll got broken last night.