

Relative clauses

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Year 5

LC – I can identify the relative clause within a sentence.

You will need:

- A pen or pencil
- Coloured pens
- A piece of paper to make notes
- The task sheet

What is a relative clause?

We can add extra additional detail about a noun by adding a relative clause to a sentence.

Instead of using two single-clause (simple sentences) to describe something,

e.g. Sarah is eating roast chicken. It is her favourite meal.

We can combine the two sentences to make one multi-clause (complex) sentence using subordination with a relative clause.

e.g. Sarah is eating spaghetti, which is her favourite meal.

A **relative clause** is connected to the main clause by a **relative pronoun**. We've replaced the pronoun 'It' in the second sentence with the **relative pronoun** 'which'.

Relative pronouns

A relative clause always starts with a relative pronoun.

Examples of relative pronouns are:

Whose, which, who, whom, that

Can you identify the relative pronouns in these sentences?

We went to the new swimming pool, which has three fantastic slides.

Josie, who loves to play football, was picked for the county team.

Sadiq, whose pen had run out, put his hand up to ask for another one.

The boy whom you met last week is coming to visit later.

Remember...

Relative clauses can be in the middle of a sentence (embedded) or at the end of a sentence.

Where is the relative clause in each of these sentences?

The class were well-behaved on the school trip, which made their teacher proud.

William, who was wearing his favourite shirt, was going to the school disco.

I go to a swimming club early in the morning, which means that I'm tired by the afternoon.

Have you seen the people whom we met yesterday at the park?

Amir found the missing cat that his neighbour had lost.

Matching game

The cat scratched my arm,

who is three years younger than me.

The paddling pool is full of cool water,

who had fallen from the tall slide.

I have a sister,

which made it sore.

The ambulance rushed to help the child,

which is fabulous on this hot day.

Your task

- Read through the following sentences and highlight the main clause in one colour and the relative clause in a different colour. Remember, the relative clause may be in the middle of the sentence rather than always at the end of the sentence.

Sentences that contain relative clauses are called complex sentences because they contain a main clause and a relative clause. The relative clause starts with a relative pronoun and can't be a sentence by itself.

Using two different colours, highlight the main clause in each sentence and the relative clause in a different colour. For example:

- My daughter's hair is very curly, **which makes it hard to brush.**
- Take it to Sarah, **who is in the kitchen.**
- Snow, **which is very cold,** can be used to make snowmen.

1. Usain Bolt, whose home is in Jamaica, has won lots of gold medals.
2. I like to go to the beach in the summer, when it is very sunny.
3. Ben, who has brown hair, likes to play computer games.
4. The girl in the princess outfit is called Mia, who always plays dressing up.
5. There aren't any biscuits left, which means somebody must have eaten them all.
6. Perth, which has many sunny days, is a city in Australia.
7. The boy's trainers, which are brand new, were covered in mud.
8. The lady by the piano is a musician, who likes to give music lessons.

Challenge

Add a relative clause to this main clause to add more detail.

My cat, _____, got stuck up a tree.

