

reduced relative clauses

We sometimes leave out **who/which/that + is/are/was/were** before **participles** (-ing and -ed forms).

Who is that child throwing stones at our house? (= '... who is throwing ...?')

Most of the people invited did not even reply. (= '... who were invited ...?')

Books printed before 1600 are rare and valuable. (= '... that were printed ...?')

This also happens with prepositional phrases and some adjectives (e.g. *possible, available*).

Can you pass me the papers on that table? (= '... that are on that table?')

Tuesday is the only date possible for the meeting. (= '... that is possible?')

Note that **who/which/that + have** cannot be left out in the same way.

We need to talk about some problems that have arisen during the operation.

(NOT ... some problems arisen during the operation.)

1 Change the words in italics.

► Ann can't eat *dishes that are made with milk*. *dishes made with milk*.....

1 *The students who were taught by Oliver* all got excellent results.
.....

2 *Cars that are parked in this street* will be towed away.
.....

3 I thought that *the girl who was talking to Patrick* looked really nice.
.....

4 Whose are *those books that are piled up* on the stairs?
.....

5 I can't hear myself think because of *the birds that are singing* outside.
.....

6 We need to reduce the amount of *plastic that is used for packaging*.
.....

7 There is a special price for *people who are studying full-time*.
.....

8 A letter *that was posted in 1986* has just been delivered to my sister.
.....

9 We do not have all *the books that were requested*; we are sending *those that are in stock*.
.....

10 Please let me have all *the tickets that are available*.
.....

2 Put the letters of eight of the participles into the texts.

A applying	B applied	C hoping	D hoped	E interviewing	F interviewed	G planning		
H planned	I printing	J printed	K showing	L shown	M teaching	N taught	O using	P used

1 Almost half of the young people ... said that they were or had been gang members

2 Books ... in the late 19th century are particularly at risk because of weaknesses in the paper

3 There is a particular emphasis on encouraging women into the traditionally male-dominated subjects ... here.

4 a business adviser, trainer and mentor for people ... to set up businesses in creative industries, such as film, art and design

5 When ... pictures of leaves, 94 per cent were unable to identify the common native trees from which they fell.

6 the amount of plastic ... in supermarket packaging

7 None of the people ... for the job had any relevant experience.

8 The place is full of rich beautiful girls ... that they might bump into a footballer

prepositions in relative clauses

identifying relative clauses In identifying clauses, verb, adjective or noun + preposition combinations usually stay close together. This means that prepositions can be separated from their relative pronoun objects.

	OBJECT		V/A/N + PREPOSITION
something	(that/which)	we	<i>talked about</i>
the girl	(who/that)	<i>you were</i>	<i>interested in</i>
a change	(that/which)	<i>there is</i>	<i>no good reason for</i>

1 Correct the confusions and write proper definitions for the different things, ending in prepositions.

- You carry water in a basket. *No. A basket is something you carry shopping in.*
- 1 You keep yourself dry with an extinguisher.
No. An extinguisher is something you
- 2 You play music on an umbrella.
.....
- 3 You keep things cold in a bucket.
.....
- 4 You stick things together with an axe.
.....
- 5 You cut wood with a saucepan.
.....
- 6 You put out a fire with a piano.
.....
- 7 You carry shopping in a freezer.
.....
- 8 You cook soup with glue.
.....

Prepositions can also go **before their objects**, but this is rather **formal**.

After prepositions, we normally use **whom**, not **who**.

something about which we talked the people to whom I applied

2 Rewrite three of your answers from Ex. 1 in a more formal style.

- *A basket is something in which you carry shopping.*
.....
.....

3 Write definitions ending in prepositions for three or more of these words.

- bedroom *a room you sleep in*
1 birthplace
- 2 home
- 3 library
- 4 colleague
- 5 employer
- 6 wife or husband

non-identifying clauses In non-identifying clauses prepositions often come **before which** or **whom**, especially in a formal style.

There will be a short speech from the President, after which drinks will be served.

In 1956 she met Andrew Carstairs, with whom she later made several films.

4 Join the sentences in the places marked *, to create more formal sentences using prepositions with **whom** or **which**.

► His grandfather gave him a new bicycle*. He was absolutely delighted with it.

His grandfather gave him a new bicycle, with which he was absolutely delighted.

1 Joe Peters* has just opened a restaurant. My father plays golf with him.

2 This bracelet* is apparently very valuable. I paid £5 for it.

3 Martin Oliver* is a very successful farmer. I am working for him at the moment.

4 Our little village school* has been turned into a museum. I learnt to read and write in it.

5 The committee have appointed a new treasurer, Peter Barnes*. I have no confidence in him.

6 Hutchins had an operation on his knee*. He was unable to play for three months after that.

at which point etc *Which* can be used as a determiner in relative clauses, with a noun that repeats the meaning of what came before. This structure is mainly used after prepositions, and is rather formal. Note the common fixed phrases **at which point** and **in which case**.

She called me a liar, at which point I decided to end the conversation.

They may wish to spend the night, in which case we will have to find them a room.

5 Complete each sentence with a preposition, **which** and an expression from the box. Different answers may be possible.

case disturbing experience point pleasant post time unexciting work ✓

► I washed dishes from morning to night, *for which unexciting work* I was paid £3 an hour.

1 We arrived at midnight, all the restaurants were closed.

2 The office may be closed, we will have to come back tomorrow.

3 Her handbag was stolen on a day-trip to Calais, she never travelled abroad again.

4 John's heart started beating extremely fast, we decided to call the doctor.

5 In 1956 he was appointed Ambassador to Uruguay, he spent the next five years.

relatives: other points

more about who, which and that While we often use *that* instead of *who* in identifying relative clauses, it is rather informal, especially as a subject in writing. Compare:

The people who live next door have got eight cats. (normal)

The people that live next door have got eight cats. (informal)

Remember that we don't normally use *that* in non-identifying clauses.

Mr and Mrs Harris, who live next door, ... (NOT *Mr and Mrs Harris, that live ...*)

In both formal and informal styles, *that* is more common than *which* after indefinite subjects like *everything, something, anything*, and *nothing*.

Everything that he said was crazy. (More normal than *Everything which he said ...*)

Whom is quite formal, and is dying out in informal speech. It is still common in non-identifying clauses, but it is rare in identifying clauses except after prepositions. Compare:

She was surprised to see Laura, whom she had last met at Andrew's wedding.

Look! There's the man (who) we saw climbing on the bridge!

(More natural than *There's the man whom we saw ...*)

whose Relative *whose* is used before nouns, and can refer back to both **people** and **things**.

He was a man whose face was on posters everywhere.

We bought a TV, whose main function was to keep the children quiet.

We can use a structure with *of which* to express the same kind of meaning.

... a TV, the main function of which was to keep the children quiet.

These are rather formal structures; in informal speech they are less often used.

I've got some friends with a house that looks over a river. (More natural in conversation than *I've got some friends whose house looks over a river.*)

1 Circle the letter of the most informal sentence in each group.

- 1 A The person that told you that was mistaken.
B The person who told you that was mistaken.
- 2 A I have had a card from those French people whom we met in Moscow.
B I have had a card from those French people we met in Moscow.
C I have had a card from those French people that we met in Moscow.
- 3 A He made a speech whose purpose was completely unclear.
B He made a speech the purpose of which was completely unclear.
C He made a speech; its purpose was completely unclear.

2 Complete these sentences in any way you like, using *whose*.

- An unsuccessful builder is one *whose houses fall down.*
- 1 An unsuccessful gardener is one
- 2 An unsuccessful parent is one
- 3 An unsuccessful doctor is one
- 4 An unsuccessful writer is one
- 5 An unsuccessful teacher is one
- 6 An unsuccessful tourist guide is one
- 7 An unsuccessful cook is one
- 8 An unsuccessful lion tamer is one

which = whole clause *Which* can refer back not just to a noun, but also to a **whole clause**.

We replaced the pump, which wasn't working properly. (*which* = 'the pump')

We replaced the pump, which took two days. (*which* = 'We replaced the pump')

Note that *what* cannot be used in this way.

He got the job, what surprised us all. (NOT ... *what surprised us all.*)

3 Put in **which** or **what**.

- 1 He lent me his car, was very kind of him.
- 2 I very much liked you wrote about me.
- 3 The shop was closed, was a nuisance.
- 4 Nobody had I wanted.
- 5 He runs three miles a day, keeps him fit.
- 6 This is not I asked for.
- 7 We're going to redecorate the house, will keep us all busy.
- 8 They made Alex Managing Director, pleased everybody.

when, where etc After words for **time** and **place**, we can **use when** and **where** as relatives.

I'll never forget the day (when) I arrived in Athens. (= '... the day on which ...')

Do you know a garage where I can get cheap tyres? (= '... a garage at which ...')

We can **drop when** after common words for time, and we can **drop where** after *somewhere*, *anywhere*, *everywhere*, *nowhere* and *place*.

the day I arrived *that time we went down to Exeter* *the year I worked in Egypt*
somewhere we can get a drink *everywhere she goes* *a place I can sleep*

We use **why** as a relative after **reason**. It can be **dropped**.

I never found out the reason (why) she left. (= '... the reason **for which** ...')

Note also that **in which** is often **dropped** after **way**.

I didn't like the way (in which) he spoke to me.

4 Finish the sentences as you like, using **when**, **where** or **why**.

- 1 Your birthday is the anniversary of the day
- 2 A supermarket is a place
- 3 A church is a place
- 4 Sunday is a day
- 5 I'll never forget the day
- 6 I know a place
- 7 I'll never know the reason

indefinite expressions After indefinite expressions like *a man* or *some books*, there is not always a clear difference between 'identifying' and 'non-identifying' clauses. The choice of structure may simply depend on whether the information in the relative clause is an important part of the meaning or not.

My sister married a famous architect (that) she met in Australia. OR

My sister married a famous architect, whom she met in Australia.

I've got a new car that goes like a bomb. OR

I've got a new car, which goes like a bomb.

dropping subject pronouns In **informal speech**, subject pronouns are sometimes dropped.

Is there anybody here drives a white Ford van? It's blocking the entrance.

There's a guy works in my office thinks he can read minds.