

More on relative clauses

GRAMMAR

LEVEL
Intermediate

NUMBER
B1_3062G_EN

LANGUAGE
English

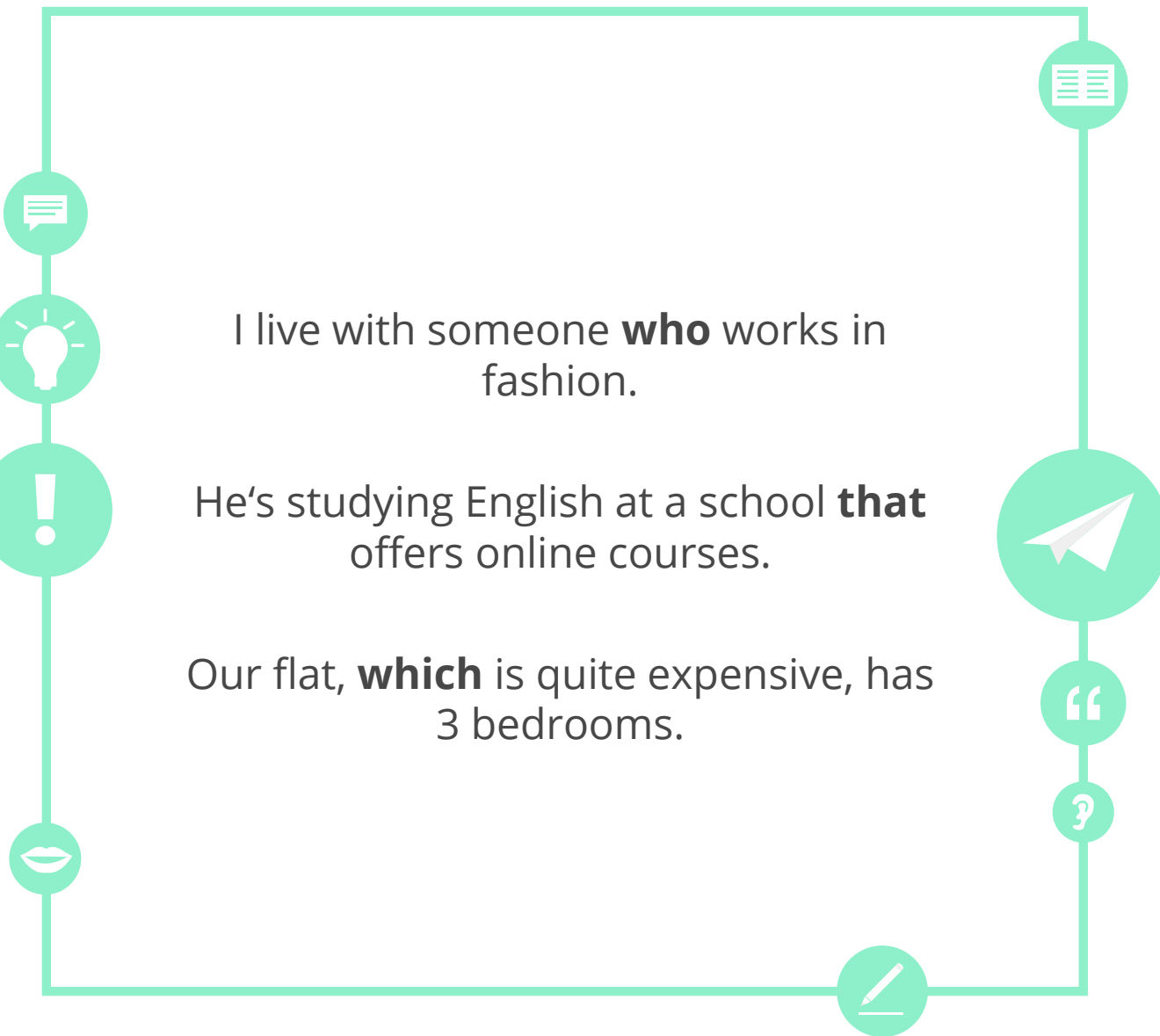




Goals

- Can recall and explain relative clauses, with examples.
- Can make straightforward comparisons between defining and non-defining relative clauses.







Preview and warm up

- In this lesson, we will learn more about **relative clauses** and practise using **relative pronouns** to describe people and things.



That's my friend **who** has just come back from a trip to Germany.



Defining relative clauses

- A **defining relative clause** gives **necessary information** about **someone** or **something**.
- We use a **relative pronoun** to replace the other **pronoun**.

Main clause	Defining clause
I live with a guy.	He works in fashion.
he → who	
I live with a guy who works in fashion.	



The plum tree is over there. **It** is in bloom.
it → that
The plum tree **that** is in bloom is over there.



Relative clauses and the pronouns *who*, *which*, and *that*

- The most common **relative pronouns** are: *who*, *which* and *that*.
- *Who* is for **people** and sometimes **animals**.
- *Which* is for **animals** and **things**, but **not** people.
- *That* is for **animals** and **things**. We can also use *that* for **people**, but *who* is more common.

Main clause	Relative pronoun + clause
There is a girl at work	who is from Mexico.
He is going to the meeting,	which is in the conference room.
I met an old friend last week	who won a prestigious book prize.
It belongs to the boy in the red shirt	who was late for school two times in a row.
My nursery is preparing for Easter,	which is a lovely, quiet time of year.



Defining relative clauses

Add *who*, *that* or *which* to complete the sentences.

1. I know somebody _____ can help you with that.
2. Where is the report _____ I left on the table?
3. A freelancer is a person _____ works for themselves.
4. Is there a bus _____ will take me to the city centre?
5. The computer _____ I was using has stopped working.



Use relative pronouns to re-write the sentences in each box as one sentence

1. The customer complained. He wasn't very happy.

→ The customer **who** complained wasn't very happy.

2. The CEO gave a speech. It was interesting and entertaining.



3. Maria solved the problem. It was worrying her.



4. I arrived early for my flight. It left at 9pm.



5. We hired a new receptionist. They can speak English and German.





Non-defining relative clauses

- **Non-defining relative clauses** give **extra information** to a sentence, but they are **not necessary** to the sentence.
- **Non-defining relative clauses** can **be removed from the sentence** and the sentence will still be **complete**.



The cake, **which I baked yesterday**, is already stale.

The barber, **who loves his job**, has just opened his own shop.





Non-defining relative clauses with more examples

- Here are some more examples of **non-defining relative** clauses.



My phone, **which is brand new**, is already broken.

Sarah, **who studied engineering**, has already graduated.



The apples, **which were picked yesterday**, are in the cellar.

The women, **who had already hiked 30kms**, decided to hike another 10kms before sunset.

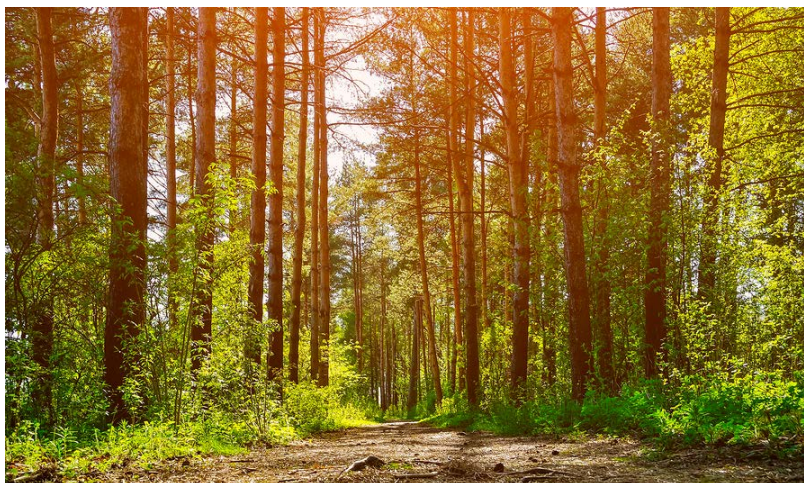




Which in non-defining relative clauses



- When a **relative clause** refers to the **whole sentence**, the relative pronoun ***which*** is used.
- In the example below, ***which*** introduces a **non-defining clause**.



It's going to be sunny weather all week, **which** is perfect for my upcoming hiking trip.



Fill in the gap

1. that

2. who

3. which

A

The red cherry blossom, _____ was pruned last year, is growing very well. That is great news because the uncle _____ gave it to me is coming to visit soon.

B

The owner of the apartment, _____ I have previously rented from, has not yet agreed to rent me the apartment for the following year, _____ is really annoying because I hate searching for apartments!

C

That's the car _____ we want to buy. It is really cheap and good value for money, _____ is such good luck.

D

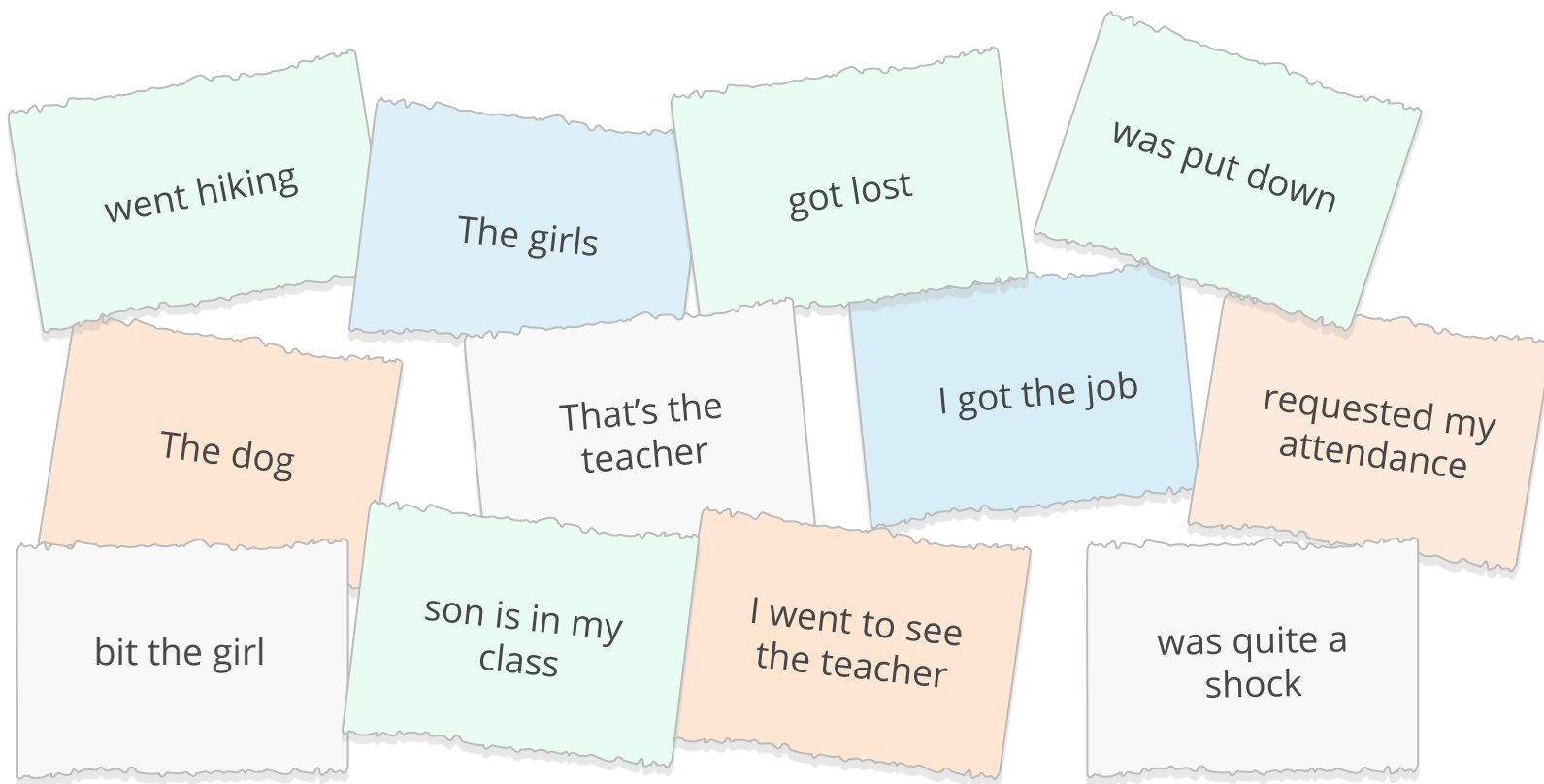
The cricket club _____ sponsored the event was fantastic. Their players even gave the kids free cricket tips, _____ was the best part of the whole thing for my kids.



Making sentences using defining relative clauses

Using *who*, *which* or *that*, write five sentences that include a defining relative clause.

For example: That is the man *who* I saw at the football game yesterday.





Use a relative clause to describe these pictures

Use either a defining or non-defining relative clause to describe these photos. Experiment with the use of *that*, *which* and *who*.

1. That's the cabin that I stayed in last year.



The winter holiday house

3. The cast and crew of this production, who also performed last season, are touring at the moment.



The cast and crew



The old lady

2. That's the old lady who won the singing competition.



The genius

4. That's the clever child who goes to my son's nursery.



The use of *that* in defining relative clauses

- *Who* and *which* are often replaced with *that* in **defining relative clauses** in spoken English.
- In **non-defining relative clauses** these pronouns **cannot be** replaced with *that*.

Examples

That is the girl **that** baked the cake.

The team **that** lost is sitting over there.

The teacher **that** taught us was very kind.

The old dog **that** once lived there is now gone.

The rivers **that** meet at this point are already salty.





Which clauses are defining and non-defining?

My mother, _____ is 67, spends most of her life travelling around the world on cruises. She thinks _____ cruises are the best way to see the world because rivers go everywhere. My dad on the other hand, _____ loves hiking, prefers to travel on land, _____ means they rarely ever reach an agreement. I enjoy both, _____ means I can travel everywhere with both of them.



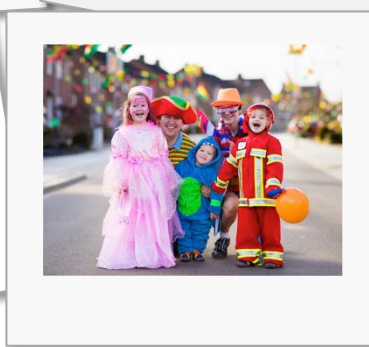
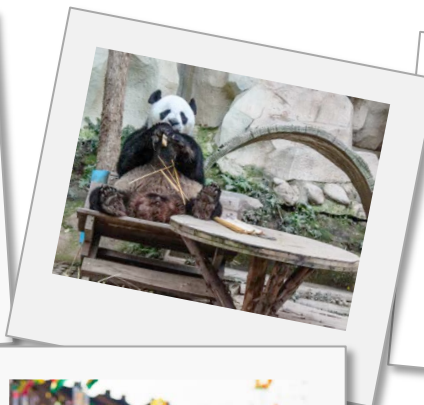
Fill in the gap with a relative pronoun.



Using non-defining relative clauses to describe things

Describe these pictures only using non-defining relative clauses.
For example: Those children, who've got costumes on, are celebrating Halloween.

Remember: Do not use *that* with non-defining relative clauses





Prepositions and relative pronouns

- **Which** and **who** are often used the **prepositions** *at, from, out of, in* and *about*.
- They can either come **before** or **at the end of the relative clause**.
- If the **preposition comes before** the relative pronoun, it is **formal**.
- If the **preposition comes at the end of the relative clause**, it is **informal**.

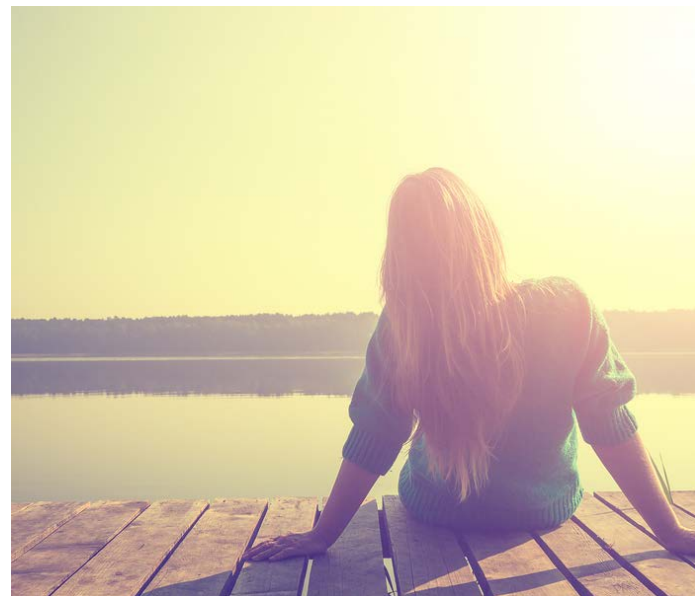
Examples

That's the lake **which** I nearly drowned in.

That's the lake **in which** I nearly drowned.

This is the book **which** I was telling you about.

This is the book **about which** I was telling you.





Prepositions and that



- **Prepositions** that are used with **that** can only come **at the end** of the **relative clause**.



This is the **book** that I was telling you **about**.



Transform the sentences by changing the second one into a relative clause using a relative pronoun and the preposition.

1. That's the aeroplane. We travelled **on** it

→ That's the aeroplane that we travelled **on**.

2. That's the type of hobby. I know nothing **about** it.

→ _____

3. Here is the address. You should write **to** this address.

→ _____

4. I couldn't recognise the street. He lived **in** it.

→ _____

5. I found the catalogue. He had been looking **for** it.

→ _____



Using prepositions with relative clauses

Using these verbs and prepositions, construct two sentences using a relative pronoun.

Remember:

with *that* the
preposition comes
at the end of the
sentence

applying for

work with

listen to

go to

read about

come from

worked out



Replacing *when* or *where* with a relative pronoun

Transform the sentences in the left-hand column to sentences that use *that* or *which*. Don't forget to use a preposition where needed.

The place **where** I work is
always busy.

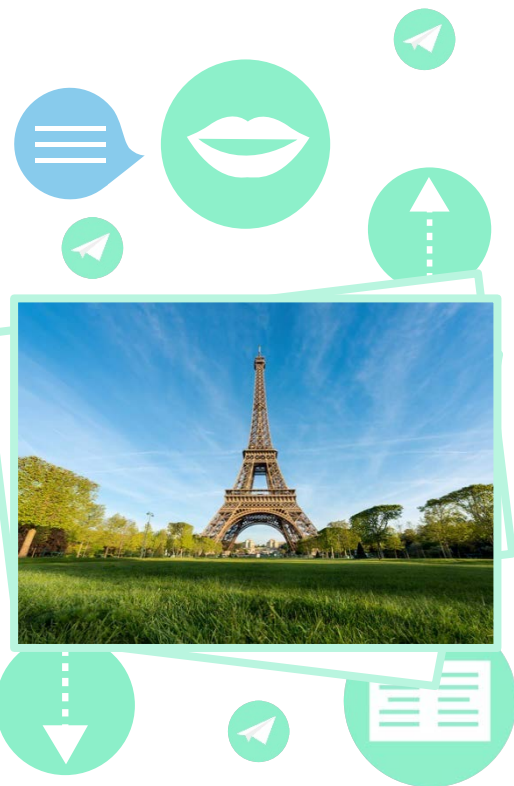
The place **that** I work **at** is
always busy.

The café where I met my
wife has closed down.

The town where I grew up is
now a city.

That time when we met at
the Eiffel tower was
fantastic.

I will never forget the time
when we missed the last
train home.





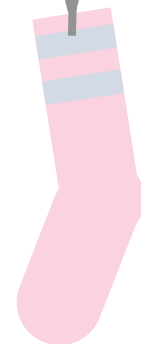
Describing your childhood

Describe your childhood to your teacher and classmates using defining and non-defining relative clauses. Try and use ones with prepositions!

- Describe your **home**, your **family**, and any other interesting things about you.
- Take a couple of minutes to **write down some ideas** before you start.



- I lived with two brothers, **who** I played **with** in the forest nearby.
- The car **that** we owned was always breaking down, **which** was very annoying.





Reflect on the goals

Go back to the second slide of the lesson and check if you have achieved all the goals of the lesson.

yes

no





Answer key

Activity p. 7:

1. who 2. that/which 3. who 4. that/which 5. that/which

Activity p. 8:

2. The CEO gave a speech that/which was interesting and entertaining.
3. Maria solved the problem that/which was worrying her.
4. I arrived early for my flight which/that left at 9pm.
5. We hired a new receptionist who can speak English and German.

Activity p. 12:

A: which, who; B: who, which; C: that, which; D: that/which, which

Activity p. 16:

1. who/non-defining 2. that/defining 3. who/non-defining 4. which/defining 5. which/defining

Activity p. 21:

Sample answers: 2. That's the type of hobby **that** I know nothing **about**. 3. Here is the address which you should write to. 4. I couldn't recognise **that** street that he lived **in**. 5. I found the catalogue **that** he had been looking **for**.

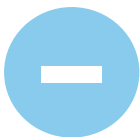
Activity p. 23:

1. The café that I met my wife in has closed down. 2. The town that I grew up in is now a city. 3. That time that we met at the Eiffel tower was fantastic. 4. I will never forget the time that we missed the last train home.



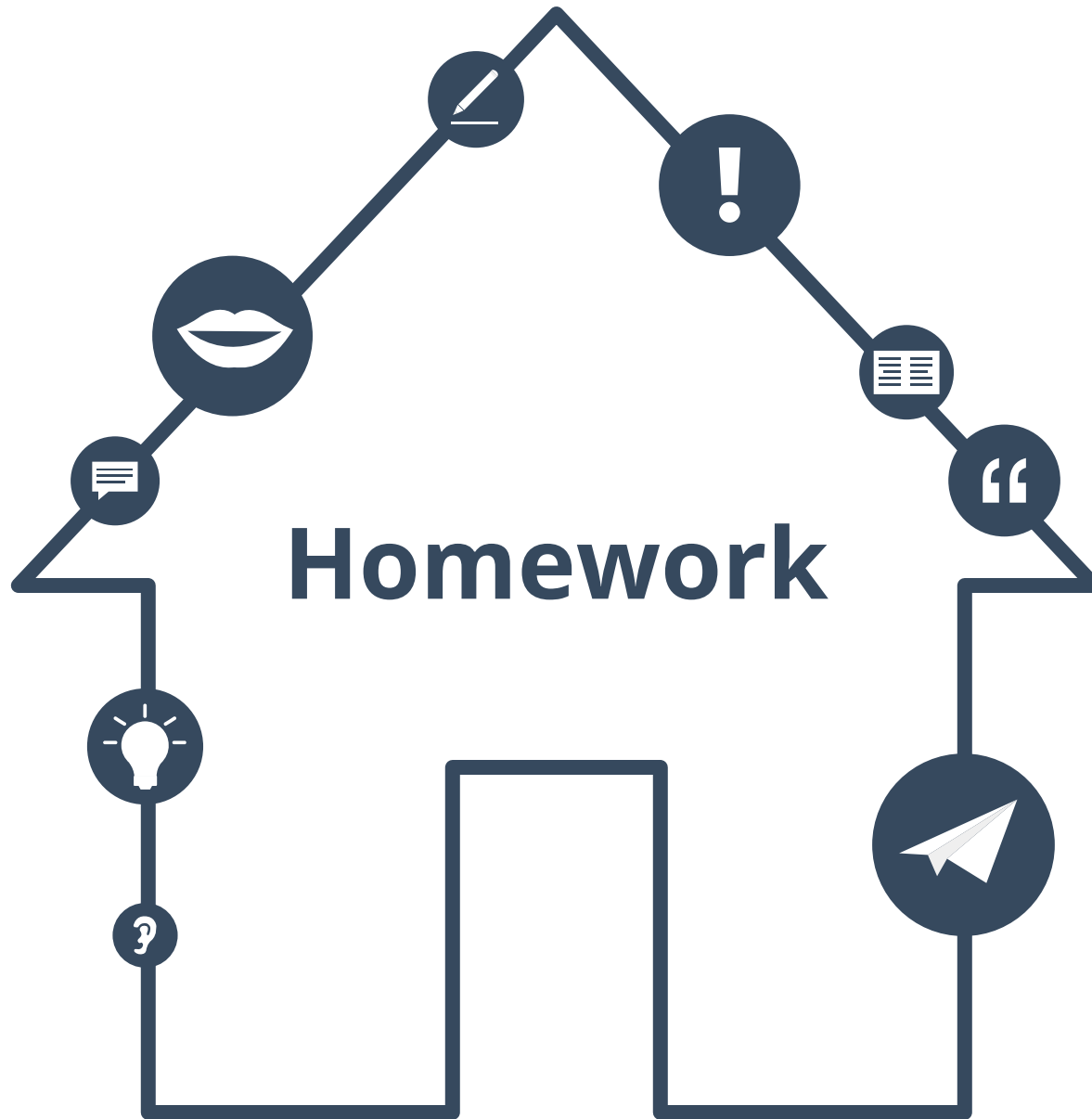
Reflect on this lesson

Think about everything you have seen in this lesson.
What were the most difficult activities or words? The easiest?



If you have time, go over
the most difficult slides again







Transform these sentences using relative clauses

1. I don't know the girl. They went with him.



I don't know the boy who they went with.

2. What's the music. You are listening to it.



3. I wasn't interested in the things. They were talking about them.



4. I booked the motel. Alex is going to stay in it.



5. The people are lovely. I work with them.



6. She got the job. She applied for it in autumn.



7. That dress belong to me. You were looking at it.



8. The purple bike is mine. Everyone is looking at it.





Homework writing activity

Write a text that describes you. Focus on using non-definitive relative clauses to give more details about yourself.

Definitive clauses give essential information.

That cannot be used with a non-defining relative clause.

Commas are always used with non-defining relative clauses.

Non-definitive clauses give additional information.

If *which* refers to the whole sentence, use a comma.

Prepositions come before *which* or at the end of a relative clause, but only at the end of the clause when used with *that*.



I live with my brother, who has a young daughter. We live right next to the train station, which is very convenient.





Homework answer key

Homework Activity p. 30:

2. What's the music that you are listening to? 3. I wasn't interested in the things that they were talking about. 4. I booked the motel that Alex is going to be staying in. 5. The people who I work with are very lovely. 6. She got the job that she applied for in autumn. 7. The dress that you were looking at belongs to me. 8. The purple bike that everyone is looking at is mine.



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