

**LEVEL**  
**Intermediate**

**NUMBER**  
**B1\_2042G\_EN**

**LANGUAGE**  
English

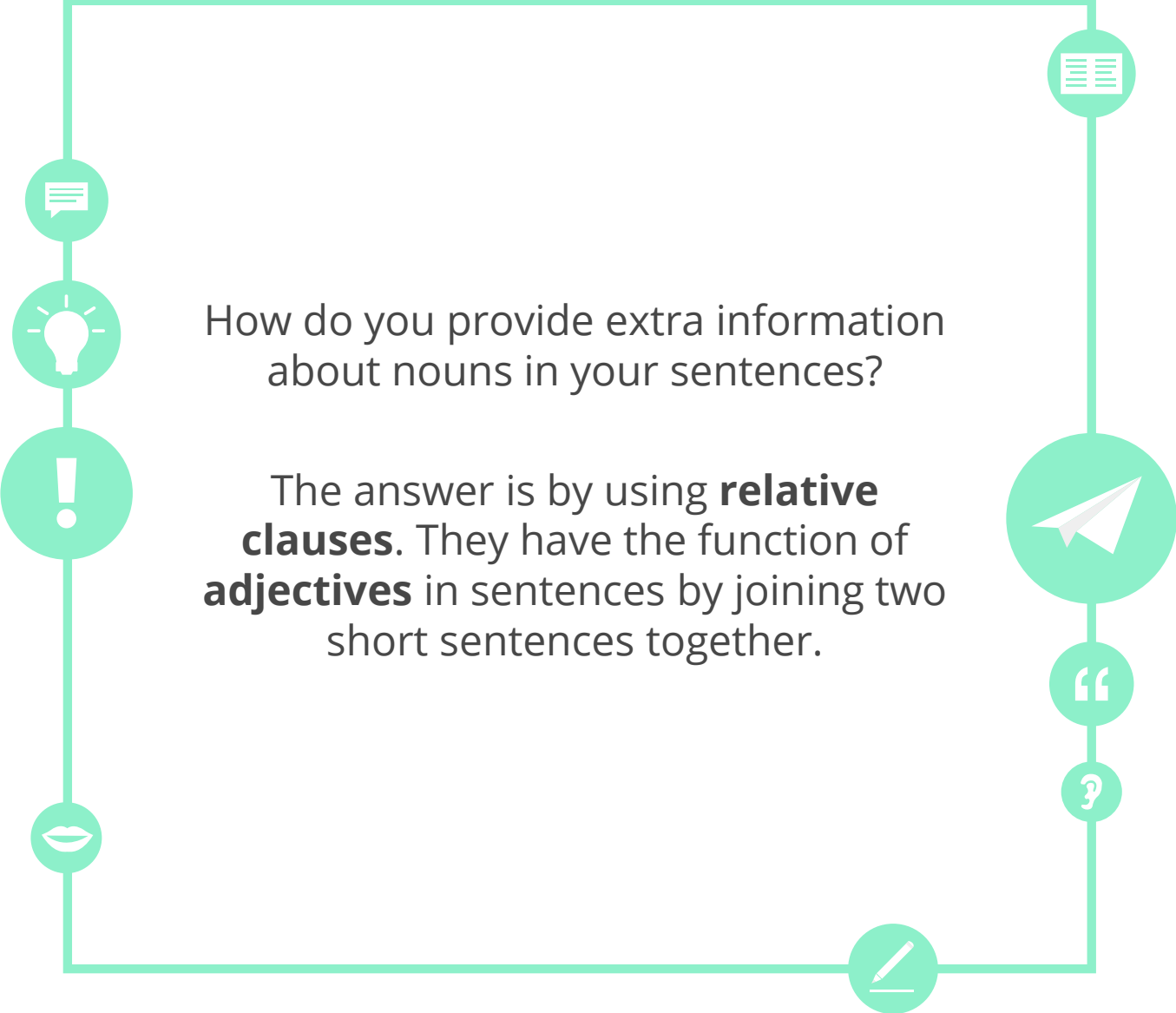




## Goals

- Can provide a simple explanation of relative clauses and their uses, with examples.
- Can accurately select the correct relative clause for a range of straightforward sentences.





How do you provide extra information  
about nouns in your sentences?

The answer is by using **relative clauses**. They have the function of **adjectives** in sentences by joining two short sentences together.



## Preview and warm-up

- In this lesson, you are going to learn about what **relative clauses** are and how to use them in different situations.



Have you read any of the books? I got you the books for your birthday.  
Have you read any of the books **that** I got you for your birthday?



## *Relative clauses function as **adjectives***

### Relative clauses:

- **Define** or **identify** the **noun** that precedes them.
- Have the relative pronouns: **who, that, which, whose, where** and **when**.

- The shop only sells bikes **which/that** are in a good condition.
- The family bought the house **which/that** was furnished by a young designer.
- Do you know anyone **who/that** is better at statistics than me?
- The man, **who** is having coffee, is a world-famous writer.
- Yesterday was a day **when** everything went wrong.



## More about *relative pronouns*

- Different **relative pronouns** are used depending on the **noun** that precedes them.
- **Whom** can be used instead of **who** only in formal styles or in writing, but rarely used in conversation

Rules	Examples
<b>Who/that</b> refer to people	The police caught the man <b>who/that</b> was acting suspiciously.
<b>Which/that</b> refer to objects	I lost the script <b>which/that</b> the director gave me.
<b>Whose</b> refers to possession	He complained to the woman <b>whose</b> dog was unleashed.
<b>When</b> refers to a moment in time	Christmas is a day <b>when</b> families get together.
<b>Where</b> refers to a particular place	We visited the house <b>where</b> our grandmother was born.



## Subject and object *relative clauses*

- The **noun** being **defined** or **described** by relative clauses can be either **subject** or **object** in a main clause.

### Subject:

- We found the girl **who** won the tennis tournament.
- Where is the flat **that** is for sale?

### Object:

- We found the girl **who** I saw yesterday.
- Where is the flat **that** I am looking for?





## Fill in the gaps

Fill in the gaps with the correct relative pronoun.

where

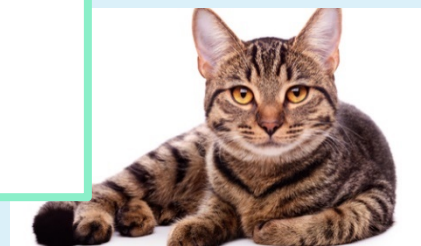
when

who/that

whose

which/that

1. The man \_\_\_\_\_ works for a travel agency has never been to the Amalfi Coast.
2. Have you seen the cat \_\_\_\_\_ is always lying on the stairs?
3. This is the boy \_\_\_\_\_ mother is a lawyer.
4. August 28<sup>th</sup> is the day \_\_\_\_\_ my cousin was born.
5. Let's get a drink at the bar \_\_\_\_\_ we had our first date.







## Complete the sentences

**Complete the following sentences using a relative clause.**

1. Caroline and Patricia are two girls (like swimming).
2. My mobile phone is something (be crucial for my work).
3. David is a friendly man (I like to spend time with).
4. A department store is a place (people spend money).



## Subject pronouns or object pronouns

For each sentence, decide whether the **bolded** relative pronoun is a subject pronoun or an object pronoun.

1. The eggs **that** are in the fridge are bad.
2. We will visit a museum **which** our host has recommended to us.
3. This is the man **who** Sarah had an online conference with.
4. Edinburgh is the city **where** Alexander Graham Bell was born.
5. The internet is something **which** connects us to the world.
6. David is a leader **who** everybody listens to.
7. Love is a feeling **that** nobody can describe.



## Forming relative clauses

**How much do you know about these people?  
Write the sentences as long as you can using relative clauses, then  
share it with your classmates and teacher.**

1. Albert Einstein

2. Your neighbour

3. The Queen of England

4. Guy Fawkes

5. Vincent Van Gogh

6. Your local shop owner



## Uses of *relative clauses*

- **Defining clauses** define **something** or **somebody**.
- They provide **specific** and **necessary** information.

- The girl **who is a world champion in chess** is waiting for me.
- A novelist is someone **who writes novels**.
- The speaker **who(m) we met last weekend** is from Japan.
- I want to live in a place **where there are a lot of fun activities to do**.





## Uses of *relative clauses*

- **Non-defining clauses** provide **unnecessary**, but **interesting**, added information.
- **Non-defining clauses** put in **two commas** in a sentence.
- **Anything** that is **between the two commas** can be **taken out**, and the **sentence** should **still make sense**.
- Relative pronoun **that** cannot replace **who/which** in non-defining clauses.

- The heavy snow, **which was unusual for the time of year**, froze the river in my neighbourhood.
- Jennifer, **who we had dinner with**, is a doctor.
- James Joyce, **who was a famous writer**, wrote interesting novels.





## Non-defining relative clauses

- **Non-defining relative clauses** do not help you to define what you are talking about.
- Sentences are still **grammatically correct** and the meaning **does not change** without non-defining relative clauses.

with the non-defining clause	without the non-defining clause
My twin brother Josh, <b>who went to the same school as me</b> , hasn't called me for years.	My twin brother Josh hasn't called me for years.
Elephants, <b>which are originally from Africa</b> , can sometimes be found in local zoos.	Elephants can sometimes be found in local zoos.
My uncle, <b>who is dead now</b> , was a famous singer.	My uncle was a famous singer.



## Relative pronoun replacement: that



- Relative pronoun **that** cannot replace **who** or **which** in **non-defining relative clauses**.

Correct	Incorrect
The trees, <b>which</b> swayed softly in the breeze, concealed the form of the deer.	The trees, <b>that</b> swayed softly in the breeze, concealed the form of the deer.
Jennifer, <b>who</b> was too poor to pay the tuition, had to work full-time while she was in school.	Jennifer, <b>that</b> was too poor to pay the tuition, had to work full-time while she was in school.
Samuel, <b>who</b> was born in 1990, is the son of a librarian.	Samuel, <b>that</b> was born in 1990, is the son of a librarian.



## Combine the sentences using a relative clause

1. People live in New Zealand.  
They are sometimes called  
Kiwis.



The people who live in New Zealand are sometimes called Kiwis.

2. A fridge is an appliance. It  
keeps food cool.



\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. I sent you a picture. The  
picture was taken in Athens.



\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. A film was released on Friday.  
It features a major star.



\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5. The mountain is the highest  
mountain in Great Britain. It is  
called Ben Nevis.



\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_





## Are these defining clauses or non-defining clauses?

a. You can see the body cells which have been infected.

b. Alice, who I work with, is participating in a half marathon.

c. The people who just got on the bus are famous actors.

d. That shirt, which has a lovely violet colour, was on sale.

e. These are the people who she met at the party.

f. This car, which has 300 horsepower, is affordable.



## Relative pronouns can be omitted



There are **two occasions** when the **relative pronoun** is **taken out**:

- When the **pronoun** is the **object** of the relative clause
- When the **relative clause contains** the **auxiliary** verb **to be**
- **Object pronouns** are **never** omitted in **non-defining clauses**.

with relative pronouns	→	relative pronouns omitted
Do you know the man <b>who</b> she's talking to?	→	Do you know the man she's talking to?
Did you find the purse <b>which</b> you lost?	→	Did you find the purse you lost?
The baby is wearing a dress <b>which is</b> covered in yellow ducks.	→	The baby is wearing a dress covered in yellow ducks.
Any assignment <b>that is</b> missed will result in a failing mark.	→	Any assignment missed will result in a failing mark.



## Find 3 relative pronouns that can be omitted

Mr Connor, who is turning 39 this month, is now the chairman. He had a new business idea which is running a themed-café when he earned his bachelor's degree in marketing. A themed-café that has different decorations and a new menu every month did not bring him fortune in the beginning. However, when his best friend, who lives in Paris, flew all the way to London to visit the café, things started to change. The pictures that he posted on his social networking site went viral. Thanks to his best friend, Mr Connor was able to attract more customers for years and now he has many franchises that are branched all over Europe.



## Read and discuss the dialogue with your teacher.



How are we doing with the fundraising event which is for helping the school out?

I have no idea. But that is the money that we really needed!

Do you want to make a phone call? You can use mine which I just activated yesterday.

Take your time. I will be in the next room, where the computers are, reading my emails.

We are doing great! Do you know the person who donated this money by any chance?

Oh look! There is a phone number that is written on the envelope.

Thanks, I will make it quick, I really want to say thanks to everyone that is willing to help us.



## Match the beginnings and the endings

1. There is only one school



a. which kept him out of three football matches.

2. I had such a delicious meal at the restaurant



b. that provides programmes in Chinese.

3. He had a knee injury



c. who you think has skipped breakfast.

4. She is going out with her classmate



d. which Daniel recommended.

5. Let's give the food to somebody



e. whose bike was stolen at the park.



Discuss what these people are doing using relative clauses





## Definition game

This is the thing  
that...

- Think of one item around you.
- Explain the functions and uses of the item in detail using “This is the thing that...”

**This is the thing that** you should turn on when it gets cold.  
What is it?



## Do you agree or disagree?

**Read the sentences carefully and share your opinions on why you agree or disagree with your teacher. Remember to use relative clauses.**



Young children who love doing homework are rare.

A frog is an animal that only lives in rain forests.



Spain is a country where the sun always shines.

Everything that your mother says is always right.





## Do you agree or disagree?

**Now it's your turn to come up with three sentences using relative clauses. Then, ask your teacher whether they agree or disagree.**



Agree?

Disagree?



## 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

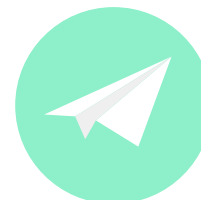
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no

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## 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



## Answer key (1/2)

### Exercise p. 8

1. who/that 2. which/that 3. whose 4. when 5. where

### Exercise p. 9

1. ...who/that like swimming, 2. ...that is crucial for my work, 3. ...who I like to spend time with, 4. ...where people spend money

### Exercise p. 10

1. subject 2. object 3. object 4. object 5. subject 6. object 7. object

### Exercise p. 16

2. A fridge is an appliance which keeps food cool.  
3. The picture I sent you was taken in Athens.

4. The film, which features a major star, was released on Friday.  
5. The mountain, which is the highest mountain in Great Britain, is called Ben Nevis.

### Exercise p. 17

a. defining, b. non-defining, c. defining, d. non-defining, e. defining, f. non-defining



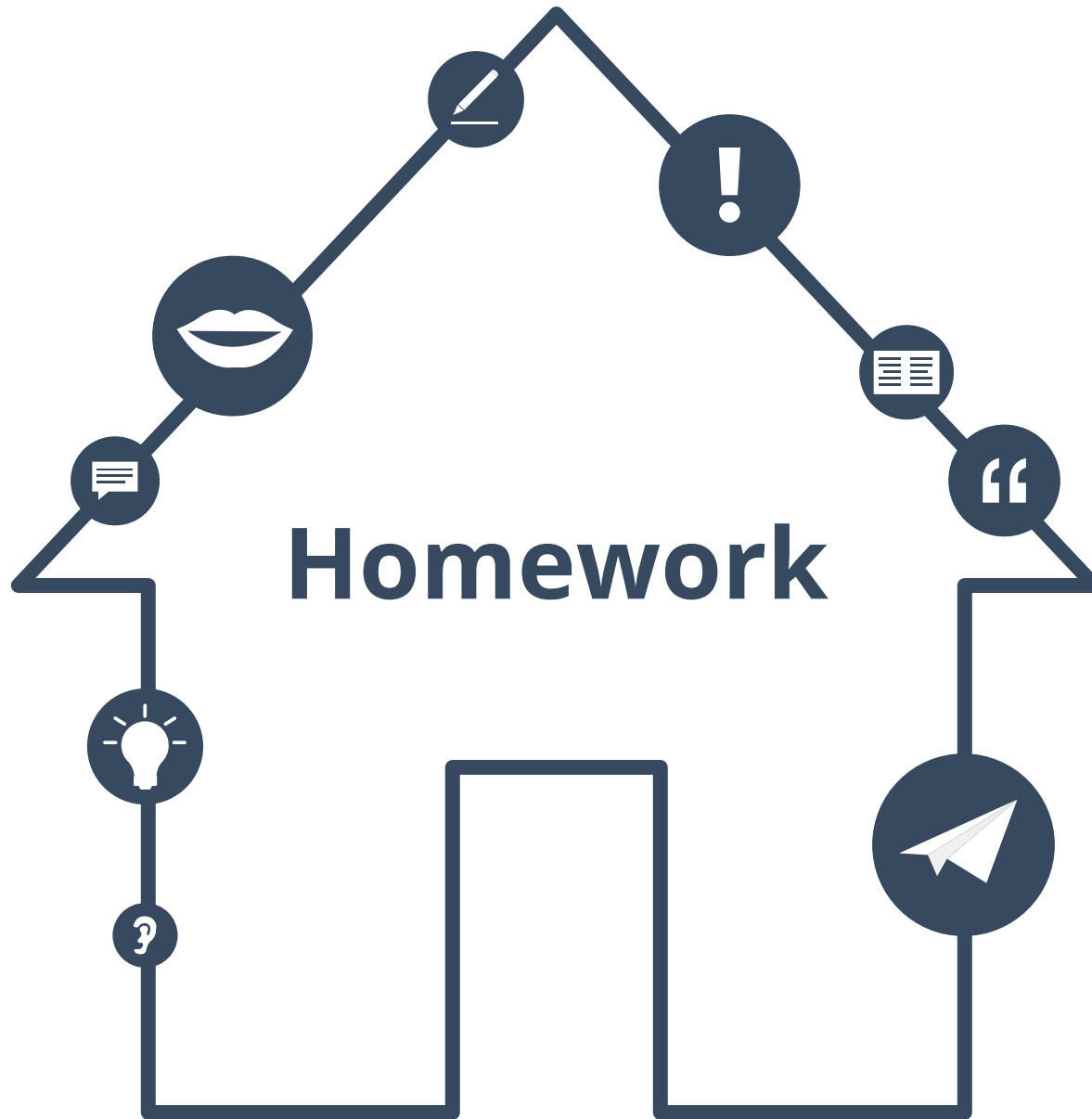
## Answer key (2/2)

### Exercise p. 19

Mr Connor, who is turning 39 this month, is now the chairman. He had a new business idea **which is** running a themed-café when he earned his bachelor's degree in marketing. A themed-café that has different decorations and a new menu every month did not bring him fortune in the beginning. However, when his best friend, who lives in Paris, flew all the way to London to visit the café, things started to change. The pictures **that** he posted on his social networking site went viral. Thanks to his best friend, Mr Connor was able to attract more customers for years and now he has many franchises **that are** branched all over Europe.

### Exercise p. 21

1b, 2d, 3a, 4e, 5c





## Fill in the blank

1. The plate \_\_\_\_\_ sitting on the kitchen counter is used.
2. The woman \_\_\_\_\_ standing over there was not wearing any make-up.
3. A zebra is an animal \_\_\_\_\_ has black and white stripes.
4. My mum is a person \_\_\_\_\_ very calm, but can be scary when she's angry.
5. Prehistoric people used to pick weeds \_\_\_\_\_ grew at the sides of the lake.
6. These dresses, \_\_\_\_\_ you can see in the picture, aren't very traditional.





## Writing

**Write more than five of your own sentences about your family members using relative clauses.**

<input type="radio"/>	Example: I have one brother who passed all his GCSEs with top
<input type="radio"/>	grades!
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## Homework answer key

### Exercise p. 31

1. which/that is, 2. who/that was, 3. which/that, 4. who/that is, 5. which/that, 6. which



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