

RELATIVE CLAUSES - DEFINING VS NON-DEFINING

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Grammar focus: Defining and non-defining relative clauses, relative pronouns, commas and sentence construction.

1. Quick Revision - Complete the sentences using the correct information.

commas · essential · extra · omit · that · that

1. A defining relative clause gives us _____ information.
2. A non-defining relative clause gives us _____ information.
3. We use _____ around non-defining relative clauses.
4. We can use who, which and _____ in defining relative clauses.
5. We cannot use _____ in non-defining relative clauses.
6. In non-defining relative clauses, we cannot _____ the relative pronoun.

2. Activity A – Choose the Correct Sentence

Circle the sentence that is correct in each pair.

1. A. My mother, that works in a bank, is very busy.
   B. My mother, who works in a bank, is very busy.
2. A. The man who lives next door is a doctor.
   B. The man, who lives next door is a doctor.
3. A. Paris, which is famous for the Eiffel Tower, attracts many visitors.
   B. Paris, that is famous for the Eiffel Tower, attracts many visitors.
4. A. The students, who study hard usually get good results.
   B. The students who study hard usually get good results.
5. A. My car, which is ten years old, still runs well.
   B. My car, that is ten years old, still runs well.
6. A. The woman who called yesterday wants to speak to you.
   B. The woman, who called yesterday wants to speak to you.

3. Activity B – Join the Sentences

Join each pair using the relative pronoun in brackets. Pay attention to commas.

Example: I have a friend. He lives in Japan. (who) I have a friend who lives in Japan.

1. I know a woman. She speaks five languages. (who)
2. My uncle is a pilot. He lives in Singapore. (who)
3. We visited a museum. It was built 200 years ago. (which)
4. I bought a new computer. It has a very large screen. (which)
5. The boy is my cousin. He is playing football. (who)
6. My hometown is very small. It is near the mountains. (which)

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4. Activity C – Find and Correct the Mistakes

Each sentence contains one mistake. Rewrite the sentence correctly.

1. My father, that works in a factory, starts work at 7 a.m.
2. The woman, who lives upstairs is very friendly.
3. My school which is near the river, has a large library.
4. The people which work in this office are helpful.
5. My brother, who is 25 years old is studying medicine.
6. The book, that I bought yesterday, is very interesting.

5. Activity D – Complete the Sentences

Complete each sentence with your own ideas. Use a defining or non-defining relative clause as indicated.

1. A teacher is someone who _____. (Defining)
2. My hometown, which _____, is a good place to live. (Non-defining)
3. People who _____ often _____. (Defining)
4. My best friend, who _____, _____. (Non-defining)
5. A good restaurant is a place that _____. (Defining)
6. My country, which _____, _____. (Non-defining)

6. Activity E – Your Turn: Describe and Explain

Write complete sentences using defining and non-defining relative clauses.

1. Describe a person in your family using a non-defining relative clause.

   _____

2. Describe a person you admire using a defining relative clause.

   _____

3. Describe a place in your country using a non-defining relative clause.

   _____

4. Describe something you use every day using a defining relative clause.

   _____

5. Write about a person who has helped you in your life.

   _____

6. Write about a place you would like to visit.

   _____

Challenge: Write two sentences about the same person or place. Use a defining relative clause in one sentence and a non-defining relative clause in the other. Make sure the meaning is different.

Example: The students who arrived early got the best seats.
The students, who arrived early, got the best seats.

_____

_____

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Answer Key

1. Quick Revision

Complete the sentences using the correct information.

1. essential
2. extra
3. commas
4. that
5. that
6. omit

2. Activity A – Choose the Correct Sentence

Circle the sentence that is correct in each pair.

1. B
2. A
3. A
4. B
5. A
6. A

3. Activity B – Join the Sentences

Questions 1, 3 and 5 are defining
Questions 2, 4 and 6 are non-defining.

4. Activity C – Find and Correct the Mistakes

1. My father, who works in a factory, starts work at 7 a.m.
2. The woman who lives upstairs is very friendly.
3. My school, which is near the river, has a large library.
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