

Relative Pronouns

relative pronoun	use	example
who	subject or object pronoun for people	I told you about the woman <i>who</i> lives next door.
which	subject or object pronoun for animals and things	Do you see the cat <i>which</i> is lying on the roof?
which	referring to a whole sentence	He couldn't read <i>which</i> surprised me.
whose	possession for people animals and things	Do you know the boy <i>whose</i> mother is a nurse?
whom	object pronoun for people, especially in non-defining relative clauses (in defining relative clauses we colloquially prefer <i>who</i>)	I was invited by the professor <i>whom</i> I met at the conference.
that	subject or object pronoun for people, animals and things in defining relative clauses (<i>who</i> or <i>which</i> are also possible)	I don't like the table <i>that</i> stands in the kitchen.

Subject Pronoun or Object Pronoun?

Subject and object pronouns cannot be distinguished by their forms - who, which, that are used for subject and object pronouns. You can, however, distinguish them as follows:

If the relative pronoun is followed by a verb, the relative pronoun is a *subject pronoun*. Subject pronouns must always be used.

the apple **which** is lying on the table

If the relative pronoun is not followed by a verb (but by a noun or pronoun), the relative pronoun is an *object pronoun*. Object pronouns can be dropped in defining relative clauses, which are then called *Contact Clauses*.

the apple (**which**) *George* lay on the table

Relative Adverbs

A relative adverb can be used instead of a relative pronoun plus preposition. This often makes the sentence easier to understand.

This is the shop **in which** I bought my bike.
→ This is the shop **where** I bought my bike.

relative adverb	meaning	use	example
when	in/on which	refers to a time expression	the day <i>when</i> we met him
where	in/at which	refers to a place	the place <i>where</i> we met him
why	for which	refers to a reason	the reason <i>why</i> we met him

Relative Pronouns - necessary or not?

Decide whether the relative pronouns must be used or not.

1. A calendar is something **which** tells you the date.
☐ relative pronoun is necessary
☐ relative pronoun is not necessary
2. Strikers are soccer players **who** try to score goals for their team.
☐ relative pronoun is necessary
☐ relative pronoun is not necessary
3. Jane is a person **who** everybody likes.
☐ relative pronoun is necessary
☐ relative pronoun is not necessary
4. A stamp is something **which** you put on a letter if you want to send it.
☐ relative pronoun is necessary
☐ relative pronoun is not necessary
5. The Thames is a river **which** runs through London.
☐ relative pronoun is necessary
☐ relative pronoun is not necessary
6. Cheese is food **which** mice like eating.
☐ relative pronoun is necessary
☐ relative pronoun is not necessary
7. A racket is something **which** you use to hit a ball when you play tennis or badminton.
☐ relative pronoun is necessary
☐ relative pronoun is not necessary
8. Socks are things **which** you wear on your feet.
☐ relative pronoun is necessary
☐ relative pronoun is not necessary
9. A guide is a person **who** shows tourists around around a place.
☐ relative pronoun is necessary
☐ relative pronoun is not necessary
10. Love is a feeling **which** nobody can describe.
☐ relative pronoun is necessary
☐ relative pronoun is not necessary

Subject Pronouns or Object Pronouns? *Decide whether the relative pronoun is a subject pronoun or an object pronoun.*

1. Do you know the girl **who** I danced with? -
2. Do you know the girl **who** danced with me? -
3. The apples **that** are lying on the table are bad. -
4. The apples **that** we bought in the shop are bad. -
5. We will stay at a hotel **which** is not far from the beach. -
6. We will stay at a hotel **which** my friend has recommended to us.
7. That is a museum **which** I like very much. -
8. That is a museum **which** lies in the heart of the town.
9. This is the man **who** Barbara visited in Scotland.
10. This is the man **who** lives in Scotland.

Grammar on the Text

WHO / WHICH

Use *who* for people; for everything else use *which*. Decide whether to use *who* or *which*.

1. The people built Stonehenge lived several thousand years ago.
2. The huge stones are more than 6 metres high weigh about 45 tons.
3. The smaller stones weigh about 4 tons and are from an area in Wales is 400 kilometres away from Stonehenge.
4. As Stonehenge lies in a large field, tourists come to this place can already see the stones from a distance.
5. Everybody has visited Stonehenge says that it is very impressive.

Relative Adverbs. *Choose the correct relative adverb.*

1. This is the station Emily met James.
2. July and August are the months most people go on holiday.
3. Do you know the reason so many people in the world learn English?
4. This is the church Sue and Peter got married.
5. Edinburgh is the town Alexander Graham Bell was born.
6. 25 December is the day children in Great Britain get their Christmas presents.
7. A famine was the reason so many Irish people emigrated to the USA in the 19th century.
8. A greengrocer's is a shop you can buy vegetables.
9. The day I arrived was very nice.
10. A horror film was the reason I couldn't sleep last night.

