



RELATIVE PRONOUNS AND RELATIVE CLAUSES

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Abstract: *In this article, we will look at some of the rules and structures for relative pronouns and relative clauses in English grammar, and learn how to use them in a sentence by using examples.*

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Before getting into how to use relative pronouns, it's important to have a solid definition of what they are. A relative pronoun is used to connect a clause or phrase to a noun or pronoun. The clause modifies or describes the noun. The most common relative pronouns are who, whom, whose, which, and that.

A pronoun is an independent group of words used in place of a noun, adjective, or number. The text explains the main meaning of the pronouns and which word group they are used instead of. The meaning of the pronouns is vague and general. According to the meaning and grammatical features, the rhyme is a generalized object (pronoun- noun: I, you, he, who, what, no one, nothing), a generalized sign (pronoun - adjective: this, that, that, which, some, no), the generalized quantity (Pronouns - number: how much, how much, how much, how much) is divided into pronouns.

We usually use a relative pronoun (e. g. who, that, which, whose and whom) to introduce a defining relative clause (In the examples, the relative clause is in bold, and the person or thing being referred to is underlined.):

They're the people who want to buy our house

As the examples show, relative clauses are most commonly positioned immediately after the noun that they refer to and often begin with a relative pronoun such as who, that or which. Who is used to refer to people, which is used to refer to things, and that is used to refer to people or things. Relative pronouns do not have masculine, feminine or plural forms. A relative pronoun like who or that can be used to refer to a man, a woman or a group of people, e.g.

There are only a few relative pronouns in the English language. The most common are which, that, whose, whoever, whomever, who, and whom. In some situations, the words what, when, and where can also function as relative pronouns.

1. Who- used for people: replaces subject pronouns like I, she, he, we, they

e.g. I am looking for someone who can watch my dog while I go on vacation

2. Whose- shows possession or relationship

e.g. This is the girl whose notes I borrowed

3. Whom- replaces object pronouns like me, her, him





e.g. **The man whom they found was sent home**

4. Which- used for objects and animals (typically non-defining clauses)

e.g. **The festival, which lasted all day, ended with a banquet**

5. That- used for people and things (typically defining clauses)

e.g. **The police needed details that could help identify the robber.**

Relative clauses

Interrogative pronouns such as who, what, how much, how, where, and the same, that, so, so, and so are relative, because one requires the other. There are two types of relative clauses. They are: **Restrictive Clause and Nonrestrictive Clause**

1. Restrictive Clause

A restrictive clause restricts or defines the meaning of a noun or noun phrase and provides necessary information about the noun in the sentence. It is not separated from the rest of the sentence by commas. Restrictive clauses are more common in writing than nonrestrictive clauses. A restrictive clause is also sometimes referred to as an essential clause or phrase.

Here are an example:

The student who sits in the back of the room asks a lot of questions.

2. Nonrestrictive Clause

A nonrestrictive clause adds additional information to a sentence. It is usually a proper noun or a common noun that refers to a unique person, thing, or event. It uses commas to show that the information is additional. The commas almost act like parentheses within the sentence. If the information between the commas is omitted, readers will still understand the overall meaning of the sentence. A nonrestrictive clause is also known as a nonessential clause or phrase.

Here are an example:

I want to thank my father, Mark Smith, for all of his love and support.

With the nonrestrictive clause omitted: I want to thank my father for all of his love and support.

Relative pronouns are used to introduce relative clauses. In the English sentence, "The book that he is reading is very interesting," the relative clause is, "that he is reading," and the main sentence is: "The book is very interesting." The meaning of a relative clause is to modify the item in the main sentence to which the entire relative clause refers – in this case, "book."

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