

RELATIVES

5 UNIT

In written English (more than in the spoken form) we often give information about a person or a thing by using a group of words called relatives – who, which, where and whose.

Example : The band which performed on the annual day played good music.

Relatives help to convey our idea in a well-connected and compact way.

Two ideas : 1. My brother has composed a song.

and

2. I like it.

can be conveyed thus

a) I like the song which my brother has composed

OR

b) My brother has composed a melodious song which I liked.

A-1 Match the items in A with their definitions.

A	B
1. A dermatologist is	a) an instrument which measures temperature.
2. A cassock is	b) a place where grains are stored.
3. A thermometer is	c) a doctor who treats skin diseases.
4. A granary is	d) a gown which is worn by a priest.
5. A widower is	e) an animal which lives both on land and in water.
6. A tragedy is	f) a disease which causes loss of memory.
7. Amnesia is	g) a play which has sad or tragic ending.
8. An amphibian is	h) an instrument for viewing minute objects.
9. A microscope is	i) a man whose wife is dead.

Now underline the relative (called a relative pronoun) in the sentences above. The first one has been done for you.

A-2 Quiz

Working in pairs, make six questions like the ones given below:

1. What is the name of the tree which ?
2. What is the name of the island where ?
3. What is the name of the person who ?
4. What is the name of the play which ?
5. What is the name of the stadium where ?
6. What is the name of the product which ?

Now each pair will ask three of their questions to the rest of the class.

A-3 Read the following questions silently and then

- a) underline the relative;**
 - b) circle the word or phrase which the relative refers to;**
 - c) in pairs, discuss why you think there are commas in four of these sentences.**
- 1) An oculist is a person who treats eye diseases.
 - 2) Ishita's brother, who is an architect, said the house needs a proper security system.
 - 3) Copper, which is an element, is mixed with zinc to make brass.
 - 4) The shed where aeroplanes are housed is called a hangar.

- 5) The Indian cricket team is flying to Chennai, where 2011 world cup's last league match is going to be played.
- 6) Chanakya, whose disciple was Chandragupta, was a teacher of Economics and Political science in Takshashila University.
- 7) The countries that export petroleum are planning to hike the price.

Sentences two, three, five and six have commas because

A-4 Use who*, whose, where, or which to complete each sentence below.

1. That well built boy _____ I met at the sports meet is a famous hockey player.
2. Aditya, _____ mother got an award for the best teacher, is my nephew.
3. The great Bengal tiger, _____ is found in India, is rapidly becoming a threatened species.
4. Kailash Mansarovar, a holy place in Tibet and _____ many Indian pilgrims go in May, is very difficult to get to.
5. Teachers _____ have taught Arnav say that he is an exceptionally creative student.
6. Interviewers tend to prefer candidates _____ have well rounded personalities.

*** In modern English (spoken as well as written), who and whom mean the same. Whom is not often used now in international English.**

A-5 Read the following sentences and punctuate them, using commas where necessary.

1. Tushar who is my best friend is studying in Cornell University, USA.
2. Konark where we are going for our next excursion is famous for its sun temple.
3. Mr Misra who was in the US has started his own business in New Delhi.
4. Yesterday I met Saina Nehwal who is a famous badminton player.
5. Popeye likes to eat lots of spinach which contains iron.

A-6 Fun with definitions

Working in pairs, choose three of the following words and write your own humorous and unusual definitions for them. Two examples have already been done for you.

dentist	hotel	alarm clock	moped
mirror	classroom	astrologer	mobile phone

1. A mirror is a device that frightens the daylights out of most people.
2. An alarm clock is an instrument that wakes you up early so that you can go to sleep again.

A-7 Read the following sentences. There are errors in some of them. Underline the error and write the word in the space provided. Put a ✓ if there is no error.

1. The bus who goes to the station is a low-floor bus. _____
2. The man which was here a little while ago is a minister. _____

3. That's the house where the poet was born. _____
4. The bird whose lays the biggest egg is the ostrich. _____
5. Karn, where home is in Gurgaon, is studying in Manipal. _____

A-8

The pen drive which I borrowed from my friend was lost

In this kind of sentence, that can replace which, especially in spoken English. 'That' is easier to say than 'which'.

Rewrite the following sentences substituting "that" for "which". Then say each one aloud to your partner.

1. That was a very fine car which your friend bought last month, wasn't it?
2. All the members of my family prefer cakes which are made without egg.
3. The team which will win the quiz competition will be going to Ooty.
4. Neither Govind nor I like stories which are full of violent incidents.

B. Reduced relatives

In many cases, *relatives* (including that as a substitute) can be omitted in order to economize with words. This is a matter of style. When you are reading or listening to English, notice when this happens.

B-1 Read the following sentences aloud to your partner without the relative as shown in the example.

1. I found the book which I wanted to read.
2. The boy who I met at the hotel is a wonderful magician.
3. This is the best movie that I've ever seen.
4. The girl who is talking to Mr. Mallya is the pilot.
5. Silk sarees which are made in Banaras are popular all over the world.

B-2 The following newspaper article about Patliputra contains some errors. Correct the article (In some places relatives need to be added; in other places, reduced relatives can be used).

Pataliputra

The fourth century BC city is believed to have existed _____
between 320 BC and AD 550 was ruled by the Mauryan and
later the Gupta dynasties.

- Magasthenes spent many years as an ambassador to _____
Patliputra wrote a book who is titled 'Indika'. The city, _____
who was encircled by a deep moat, had a fortified wall. _____
Ashoka, adopted Buddhism, provided _____
inns, hospitals and veterinary centres whom _____
helped the common people
This was which the first Buddhist monuments came to be built. _____

B-3 Salsette Island

You have been asked to write an encyclopaedia entry about Salsette Island. Study the following notes. The information is jumbled up. Put the notes in logical order and then link them together using appropriate *relatives* (or *reduced forms*), *articles*, *verbs* etc. Do not make your sentences too long.

SALSETTE ISLAND


