

Relative Pronouns

who, which, where, whose, that

What is a relative pronoun?

Relative pronouns mark the **beginning** of a relative clause.

There was a man who wore a large, warm hat.

The documentary was filmed in the North Pole, where it is very cold.

The highest temperature recorded at the North Pole is 5 degrees Celsius, which is still very cold!

Most common relative pronouns

The man who lives next door gets up early.

My phone, which is black, has the longest battery life.

The place where we used to play is now a new block of flats.

The person whose coat is left behind needs to come and collect it.

The film that we watched last night lasted for two hours.

Relative pronouns: how are they used?

The relative pronoun refers to the **person** or **object** of the **main sentence**.

This is the house **that** Jack built.

that = _____

There's the girl **who** won the competition.

who = _____

Relative pronouns: how are they used?

The relative pronoun refers to the **person** or **object** of the **main sentence**.

- The airport, which lies by the river, is quite large.
- The woman who is in the red dress is a friend of Jenny's.
- There is a party that is being held at my friend's house.
- The streets are dirty where I live.

Relative pronouns: who

'Who' is used to refer to a **person**, when the person is the **subject** of the relative clause.

That is the man who helped me.

The girl who is wearing jeans is very intelligent.

Sam, who is sitting over there, is one of my best friends.

My mother, who is a nurse, is my hero.

Relative pronouns: where

‘Where’ is used to refer to a **place**. It is **always** used in relative clauses about a place.

I know a place where there are no people.

London, where I live, is a very big city.

There is a cafe nearby, where you can buy nice coffee.

Our hotel was next to the beach, where we could sunbathe and swim.

Relative pronouns: which

‘Which’ is used to refer to an **object** (not a person or a place).

I’ve lost the ring which I wear every day.

That’s the cat which comes into my house sometimes.

Look out for a house which has a red door.

The meal, which cost a lot of money, wasn’t actually very nice.

Relative pronouns: which or where?

Some things can be both places and objects (e.g. a park, a building). Use 'which' or 'where' depending on the content of the **relative clause**. Is it emphasising the location ('where'), or the object ('which')?

The park, **where** I always play, is being closed down.

The park, **which** is in the town centre, is being closed down.

To help you, try turning the relative clause into a question. If the question makes sense with 'where', use 'where' for the relative clause.

Where do I always play?

Where is in the town centre?

Relative pronouns: whose

‘Whose’ replaces possessive adjectives (e.g. his, her, their, its). It can be used for both **people** and **objects**.

Sophie, whose grades are very high, is also very friendly.

The person whose fitness improves the most will win the competition.

We fixed the cupboard, whose shelves were broken.

The flowers whose petals are falling off should be removed from the vase.