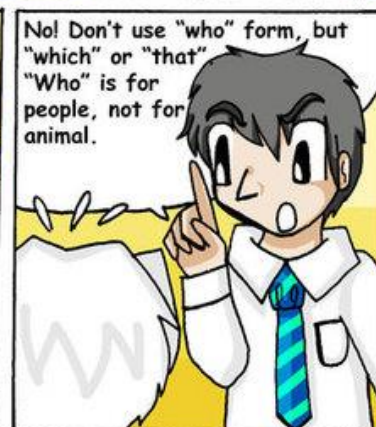
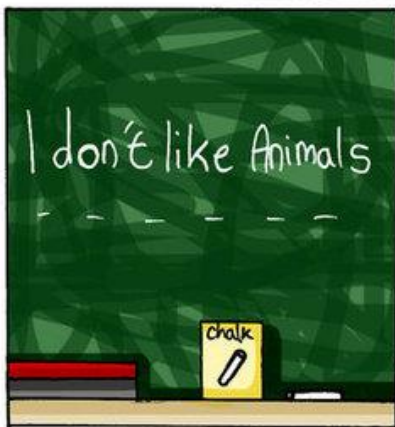
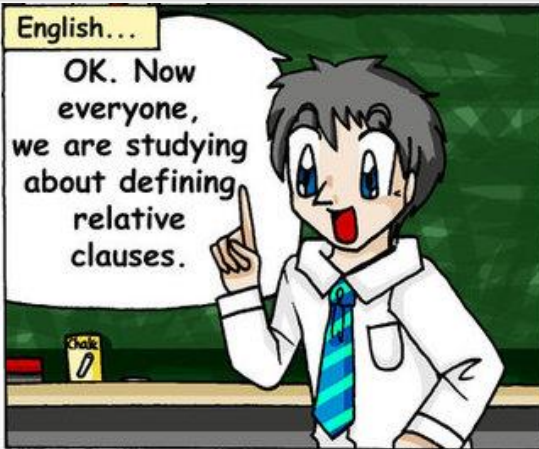


# Relative Clauses



Explaining English Grammar



# Basic forms of relative clause

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## What is a relative clause?

- ✓ **adjective clause**-describes and helps to identify the person or thing being talked about
  - ✓ **subordinate clause**-- it cannot stand alone
-

# Basic forms of relative clause

+

What is a relative clause?



That man over there  
was talking to me. I  
don't know him.

main  
clause

relative  
pronoun

[I don't know the man] who  
was talking to me.

subordinate  
clause

*Relative  
pronouns*

*Who*



*Who is who?*

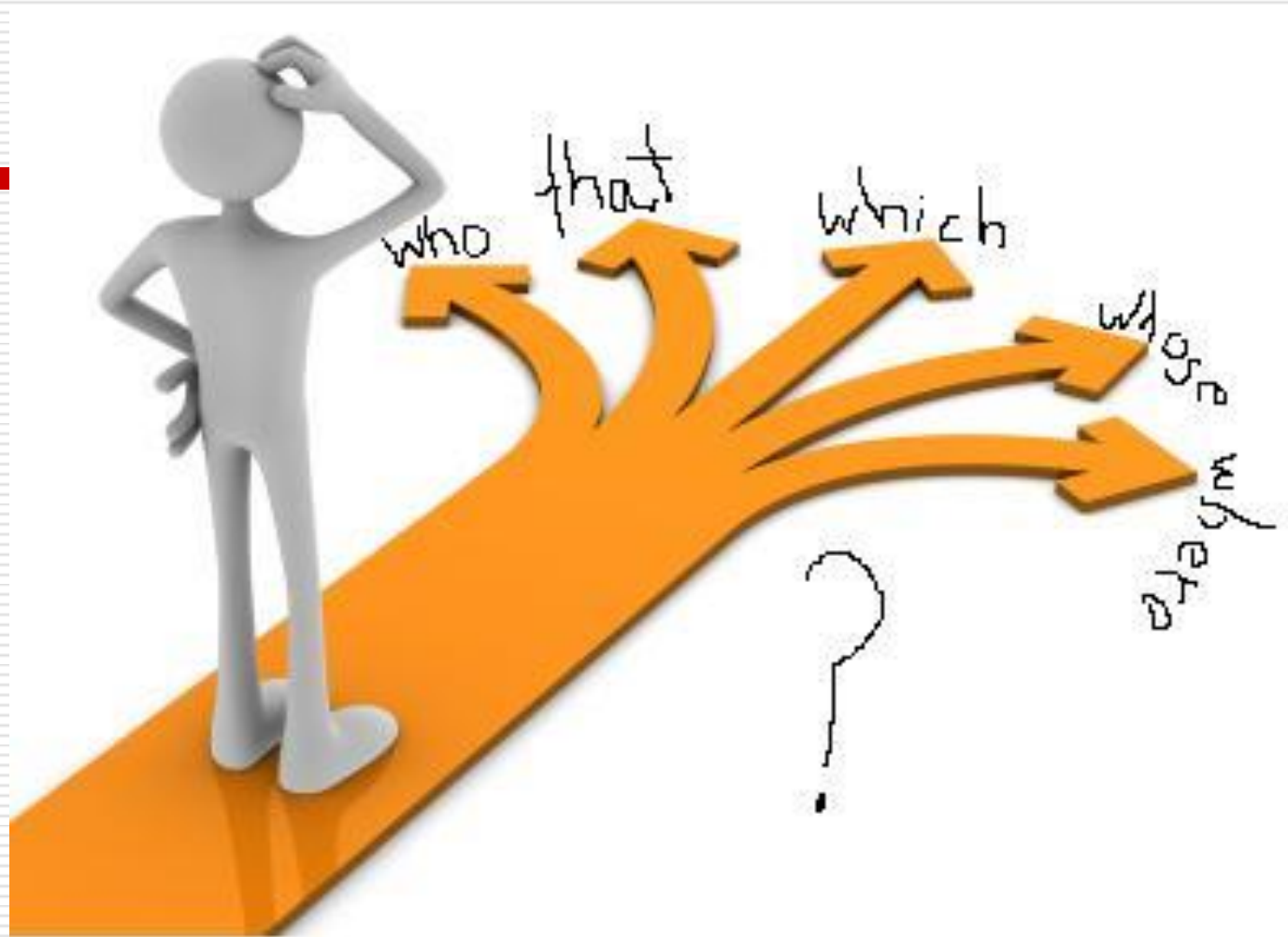
*Whom*

*Which*

*That*

*Whose*

*Used in different grammatical roles within  
the relative clause.  
Often used to introduce relative clauses.*



# Adjective Clause

---

- a. I'm the kind of person **who** is always losing things. )
- b. Right now, I can't find a book **that** I need for school. )
- c. It's a brand new book **which** I just bought last week. )
- d. It's for a class with a teacher **whom** I really like. )
- e. She's the first teacher **whose** classes I actually look forward to. )

*adjective clause*

# Subjective relatives

- ✓ Relative pronouns are the subjects of the clauses

a. Did you see the man?

The man was here.

b. I didn't see the man.

The man was here.

c. I didn't see the book.

The book was here.

a. Did you see the man **who** was here?

b. I didn't see man **who** was here.

c. I didn't see man **that** was here.

d. I didn't see book **that** was here.

e. I didn't see book **which** was here



# Object relatives

- ✓ Relative pronouns are the objects of the clauses
- 

- I didn't like the woman **whom/that** I met.
  - I didn't like the film **which/that** I saw.
-

# Resumptive pronoun

- ✓ Adding extra pronouns –often used by language learners in the early stage of learning
- 

## Correct

- Did you like the woman **whom/that** you met?
- Did you like the film **which/that** you saw?

## Incorrect

- Did you like the film **which/that** you saw **it**?
-

# Zero Relatives: object relatives

in casual conversation

- ✓ When the relative pronoun is object of its clause we sometimes leave it out:
- 

- Have you seen those people **who** were on holiday?
  - You shouldn't believe everything **that** you read in the newspaper.
  - The house we rented in London **which** was fully furnished.
-

# After-preposition relatives

- ✓ when relative pronouns come directly after the preposition
  - ✓ **Whom** and **which** are used
- 

- Where is the person to **whom** you talked?
- Where is the hotel in **which** you stayed?

\*fronted—preposition is placed in front

\***that** can not be used

---

# Stranded-preposition relatives

- ✓ When the preposition comes at the end
  - ✓ **That** used
- 

- Can I meet the person **that** you talked to?
  - Can we find the hotel **that** you stayed in?
- \*Clauses with zero relative are more common
- Mary knows the person ~~that~~ you talked to.
-

# Possessive relatives

✓ **Whose/which**

---

- Did you talk to the girl **whose** bag was stolen?
- Have you ever lived in a house **whose** roof was leaking?
- Have you ever lived in a house the roof of **which** was leaking?

\*Not common in spoken English

\***Whose** is more frequent

---

# Summary Box 9.1

## Uses of relative pronouns (p.244)

Subject relatives	Object relatives	After-preposition Relatives		Possessive relatives
		<b>Fronted</b>	<b>Stranded</b>	
who	∅	(to) which	∅...(to)	whose
that	that	(to) whom	that...(to)	of which
which	which		who...(to)	
	whom		which...(to)	

# Medial position

- ✓ A relative clause is placed in the middle of the main clause
  - ✓ Modifies the subject of the main clause
- 

- The man **(who lives next door)** has a cat.  
subject subject
- The woman **(that the man wants to marry)** has a big dog.  
subject object

\*S-S & S-O are more difficult than O-O & O-S for language learners

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# Restrictive & Non-restrictive relative Clauses

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- ✓ Most examples='defining' relative clauses because they define or restrict the reference of the antecedent noun
  - ✓ They help to identify or classify the person or thing being talked about.
-

# Nonrestrictive relative clauses

- ✓ Gives extra/additional information about an antecedent
- ✓ Separation markers (commas, dashes, brackets, pauses, parentheses)
- ✓ After proper nouns
- ✓ Not with **that** or **zero relative**
- ✓ Not with general antecedents
- ✓ With quantity expressions
- ✓ Longer and less common
- ✓ Gives additional comment

- The man — **whose name is Mark** — also likes cats.
- The woman, **who is a teacher** , loves music.
- These parties (**which are very rowdy**) go on all night.
- Mr. Cockroach, **who is a shop teacher**, has a twin brother.
- Someone said that I took the books, **which was not true**.
- I didn't eat the cookies, **most of which were rock-hard**.

# Restrictive relative clauses

- ✓ That & zero relatives are common
- ✓ Necessary information
- ✓ they define or restrict the reference of the antecedent noun
- ✓ Anyone, any person, everyone, everything as antecedents
- ✓ Shorter and more common
- ✓ No separation markers

- Is there anything ~~that~~ you can't do.
- I can't help every person who needs help.
- But those that you help are usually satisfied.
- I'm sure there are some people who are never happy.