Unit 92

Relative clauses 1: clauses with who/that/which

A

Look at this example sentence:

The woman [who lives next door] is a doctor.
(who lives next door = relative clause)

A *clause* is a part of a sentence. A *relative clause* tells us which person or thing (or what kind of person or thing) the speaker means:

- The woman **who lives next door** ... ('who lives next door' tells us which woman)
- People **who live in the country** ... ('who live in the country' tells us what kind of people)

We use **who** in a relative clause when we are talking about people (not things):

the woman – she lives next door – is a doctor
→ The woman **who lives next door** is a doctor.

we know a lot of people – they live in the country
→ We know a lot of people **who live in the country**.

- An architect is someone **who designs buildings**.
- What was the name of the person **who phoned**?
- Anyone **who wants to apply for the job** must do so by Friday.

You can also use **that** (instead of **who**), but you can't use **which** for people:

- The woman **that lives next door** is a doctor. (*not* the woman which)

Sometimes you must use **who** (*not* that) for people – see Unit 95.

B

When we are talking about things, we use **that** or **which** (*not* who) in a relative clause:

where is the cheese? – it was in the fridge
→ Where is the cheese { **that** / **which** } **was in the fridge?**

- I don't like stories **that have unhappy endings**. (*or* stories **which** have ...)
- Grace works for a company **that makes furniture**. (*or* a company **which** makes furniture)
- The machine **that broke down** is working again now. (*or* The machine **which** broke down)

That is more usual than **which**, but sometimes you must use **which** – see Unit 95.

C

Remember that in relative clauses we use **who/that/which**, not **he/she/they/it**. Compare:

- 'Who's that woman?' '**She** lives next door to me.'
  I've never spoken to the woman **who** lives next door. (*not* the woman she lives)
- Where is the cheese? **It** was in the fridge.
  Where is the cheese **that** was in the fridge? (*not* the cheese it was)

D

What = 'the thing(s) that'. Compare **what** and **that**:

- **What happened** was my fault. (= the thing that happened)

but

- Everything **that happened** was my fault. (*not* Everything what happened)
- The machine **that broke down** is now working again. (*not* The machine what broke down)

Relative clauses 2–5 → Units 93–96

Unit 93

Relative clauses 2: clauses with and without **who/that/which**

A

Look at these example sentences from Unit 92:

- The woman **who** lives next door is a doctor. (*or* The woman **that** lives …)

  The woman lives next door. **who** (= the woman) is the *subject*

- Where is the cheese **that** was in the fridge? (*or* the cheese **which** was …)

  The cheese was in the fridge. **that** (= the cheese) is the *subject*

You must use **who/that/which** when it is the *subject* of the relative clause. So you cannot say 'The woman lives next door is a doctor.' or 'Where is the cheese was in the fridge?'.

B

Sometimes **who/that/which** is the *object* of the verb. For example:

- The woman **who I wanted to see** was away on holiday.

  I wanted to see the woman. **who** (= the woman) is the *object*
  I is the *subject*

- Have you found the keys **that you lost**?

  You lost the keys. **that** (= the keys) is the *object*
  you is the *subject*.

When **who/that/which** is the object, you can leave it out. So you can say:

- **The woman I wanted to see** was away. *or* The woman **who** I wanted to see …
- Have you found **the keys you lost**? *or* … the keys **that** you lost?
- **The dress Lisa bought** doesn't fit her very well. *or* The dress **that** Lisa bought …
- Is there **anything I can do**? *or* … anything **that** I can do?

Note that we say:

the keys you lost (*not* the keys you lost them)
the dress Lisa bought (*not* the dress Lisa bought it)

C

Note the position of prepositions (**in/to/for** etc.) in relative clauses:

Tom is talking to a woman – do you know her?

→ Do you know the woman (who/that) Tom is **talking to** ?

I slept in a bed last night – it wasn't very comfortable

→ The bed (that/which) I **slept in** last night wasn't very comfortable.

- Are these the books **you were looking for**? *or* … the books **that/which** you were …
- The woman **he fell in love with** left him after a month. *or* The woman **who/that** he …
- The man **I was sitting next to on the plane** talked all the time. *or*
  The man **who/that** I was sitting next to …

Note that we say:

the books you were looking for (*not* the books you were looking for them)

D

You cannot use **what** in sentences like these (see also Unit 92D):

- Everything **(that) they said** was true. (*not* Everything what they said)
- I gave her all the money **(that) I had**. (*not* all the money what I had)

What = the thing(s) that:

- Did you hear **what they said**? (= the things that they said)

Relative clauses 1 → **Unit 92** Relative clauses 3–5 → **Units 94–96** **Whom → Unit 94B**

Unit 94

Relative clauses 3: whose/whom/where

A Whose

We use **whose** in relative clauses instead of **his/her/their**:

we helped some people – their car had broken down

→ We helped some people **whose car had broken down**.

We use **whose** mostly for people:

- A widow is a woman **whose husband is dead**. (**her** husband is dead)
- What's the name of the man **whose car you borrowed**? (you borrowed **his** car)
- I met someone **whose brother I went to school with**. (I went to school with **his/her** brother)

Compare **who** and **whose**:

- I met a man **who** knows you. (**he** knows you)
- I met a man **whose sister** knows you. (**his sister** knows you)

B Whom

Whom is possible instead of **who** when it is the *object* of the verb in the relative clause (like the sentences in Unit 93B):

- George is a person **whom I admire** very much. (I admire **him**)

You can also use **whom** with a preposition (**to whom / from whom / with whom** etc.):

- I like the people **with whom I work**. (I work **with them**)

Whom is a formal word and we do not often use it in this way. We usually prefer **who** or **that**, or nothing (see Unit 93). So we usually say:

- … a person **who/that** I admire a lot *or* … a person **I admire** a lot
- … the people **who/that** I work with *or* … the people **I work with**

C Where

You can use **where** in a relative clause to talk about a place:

the restaurant – we had lunch there – it was near the airport

→ The restaurant **where we had lunch** was near the airport.

- I recently went back to **the town where I grew up**.
  (*or* … the town I grew up in *or* … the town **that** I grew up in)
- I would like to live in **a place where there is plenty of sunshine**.

D

We say:

the day / the year / the time etc. { something happens *or* **that** something happens }

- I can't meet you on Friday. That's **the day (that) I'm going away**.
- **The last time (that) I saw Anna**, she looked great.
- I haven't seen Jack and Helen since **the year (that) they got married**.

E

We say:

the reason { something happens *or* **that/why** something happens }

- **The reason I'm phoning** is to ask your advice.
  (*or* The reason that I'm phoning / The reason **why** I'm phoning)

Relative clauses 1–2 → Units 92–93 Relative clauses 4–5 → Units 95–96 Whom → Unit 96

Unit 95

Relative clauses 4: extra information clauses (1)

A

There are two types of relative clause. In these examples, the relative clauses are underlined. Compare:

Type 1

- The woman who lives next door is a doctor.
- Grace works for a company that makes furniture.
- We stayed at the hotel (that) you recommended.

In these examples, the relative clauses tell you which person or thing (or what kind of person or thing) the speaker means:

'The woman **who lives next door**' tells us *which* woman.
'A company **that makes furniture**' tells us *what kind* of company.
'The hotel (**that**) **you recommended**' tells us *which* hotel.

We do not use commas (,) with these clauses:

- We know a lot of people who live in London.

Type 2

- My brother Ben, who lives in Hong Kong, is an architect.
- Anna told me about her new job, which she's enjoying a lot.
- We stayed at the Park Hotel, which a friend of ours recommended.

In these examples, the relative clauses do not tell you which person or thing the speaker means. We already know which thing or person is meant: 'My brother Ben', 'Anna's new job' and 'the Park Hotel'.
The relative clauses in these sentences give us *extra information* about the person or thing.

We use commas (,) with these clauses:

- My brother Ben, who lives in Hong Kong, is an architect.

B

In both types of relative clause we use **who** for people and **which** for things. But:

Type 1
You can use **that**:

- Do you know anyone **who/that** speaks French and Italian?
- Grace works for a company **which/that** makes furniture.

You can leave out **who/which/that** when it is the object (see Unit 93):

- We stayed at the hotel (that/which) you recommended.
- This morning I met somebody (who/that) I hadn't seen for ages.

We do not often use **whom** in this type of clause (see Unit 94B).

Type 2
You cannot use **that**:

- John, **who** (*not* that) speaks French and Italian, works as a tour guide.
- Anna told me about her new job, **which** (*not* that) she's enjoying a lot.

You cannot leave out **who** or **which**:

- We stayed at the Park Hotel, **which** a friend of ours recommended.
- This morning I met Chris, **who** I hadn't seen for ages.

You can use **whom** for people (when it is the object):

- This morning I met Chris, **whom** I hadn't seen for ages.

C

In both types of relative clause you can use **whose** and **where**:

- We met some people **whose** car had broken down.
- What's the name of the place **where** you went on holiday?
- Lisa, **whose** car had broken down, was in a very bad mood.
- Kate has just been to Sweden, **where** her daughter lives.

Relative clauses (Type 1) → **Units 92–94** Relative clauses (Type 2) → **Unit 96**

Unit 96

Relative clauses 5: extra information clauses (2)

A *Prepositions* + whom/which

You can use a *preposition* before **whom** (for people) and **which** (for things). So you can say: **to whom / with whom / about which / without which** etc.

- Mr Lee, **to whom** I spoke at the meeting, is very interested in our proposal.
- Fortunately we had a good map, **without which** we would have got lost.

In informal English we often keep the preposition after the verb in the relative clause. When we do this, we normally use **who** (*not* whom) for people:

- This is my friend from Canada, **who** I was telling you **about**.
- Yesterday we visited the City Museum, **which** I'd never been **to** before.

B All of / most of etc. + whom/which

Study these examples:

Helen has three brothers. All of them are married. *(2 sentences)*

→ Helen has three brothers, **all of whom** are married. *(1 sentence)*

They asked me a lot of questions. I couldn't answer most of them . *(2 sentences)*

→ They asked me a lot of questions, **most of which** I couldn't answer. *(1 sentence)*

In the same way you can say:

none of / neither of / any of / either of
some of / many of / much of / (a) few of
both of / half of / each of / one of / two of etc.
} + **whom** (people) + **which** (things)

- Martin tried on three jackets, **none of which** fitted him.
- Two men, **neither of whom** I had seen before, came into the office.
- They have three cars, **two of which** they rarely use.
- Sue has a lot of friends, **many of whom** she was at school with.

You can also say **the cause of which / the name of which** etc. :

- The building was destroyed in a fire, **the cause of which** was never established.
- We stayed at a beautiful hotel, **the name of which** I can't remember now.

C Which (*not* what)

Study this example:

Joe got the job. This surprised everybody. *(2 sentences)*

Joe got the job, **which** surprised everybody. *(1 sentence)*

relative clause

In this example, **which** = 'the fact that he got the job'. You must use **which** (*not* what) in sentences like these:

- Sarah couldn't meet us, **which** was a shame. (*not* what was a shame)
- The weather was good, **which** we hadn't expected. (*not* what we hadn't expected)

For **what**, see Units 92D and 93D.

All of / most of etc. → Unit 88 **Both of** etc. → Unit 89 Relative clauses 1–4 → Units 92–95

Unit 97

-ing and -ed clauses (the woman **talking to Tom**, the boy **injured in the accident**)

A

A *clause* is a part of a sentence. Some clauses begin with **-ing** or **-ed**. For example:

Do you know the woman **talking to Tom** ?
└ **-ing** *clause* ┘

the woman talking to Tom



The boy **injured in the accident** was taken to hospital.
└ **-ed** *clause* ┘

the boy injured in the accident



B

We use **-ing** clauses to say what somebody (or something) is (or was) doing at a particular time:

- Do you know the woman **talking to Tom**? (the woman **is talking** to Tom)
- Police **investigating the crime** are looking for three men. (police **are investigating** the crime)
- Who were those people **waiting outside**? (they **were waiting**)
- I was woken up by a bell **ringing**. (a bell **was ringing**)

You can also use an **-ing** clause to say what happens all the time, not just at a particular time. For example:

- The road **connecting the two villages** is very narrow. (the road **connects** the two villages)
- I have a large room **overlooking the garden**. (the room **overlooks** the garden)
- Can you think of the name of a flower **beginning with T**? (the name **begins** with T)

C

-ed clauses have a *passive* meaning:

- The boy **injured in the accident** was taken to hospital.
  (he **was injured** in the accident)
- George showed me some pictures **painted by his father**.
  (they **had been painted** by his father)

Injured and **painted** are *past participles*. Note that many past participles are irregular and do not end in **-ed** (**stolen/made/written** etc.):

- The police never found the money **stolen in the robbery**.
- Most of the goods **made in this factory** are exported.

D

We often use **-ing** and **-ed** clauses after **there is / there was** etc. :

- **There were** some children **swimming** in the river.
- **Is there** anybody **waiting**?
- **There was** a big red car **parked** outside the house.

You can use **left** in this way, with the meaning 'not used, still there':

- We've eaten nearly all the chocolates. There are only a few **left**.

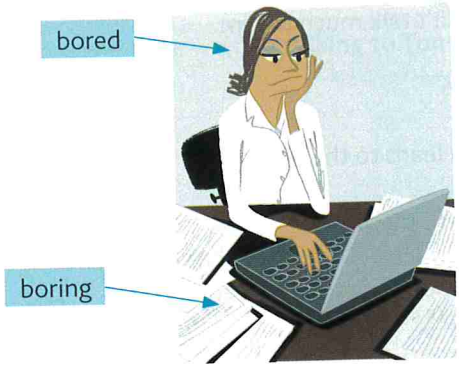
See/hear somebody **doing** something ➜ **Unit 67** **-ing** clauses ➜ **Unit 68** **There (is)** ➜ **Unit 84**
Irregular past participles (**made/stolen** etc.) ➜ **Appendix 1**

Unit 98

Adjectives ending in -ing and -ed (boring/bored etc.)

A

Many adjectives end in **-ing** and **-ed**, for example: **boring** and **bored**. Study this example situation:



Jane has been doing the same job for a very long time. Every day she does exactly the same thing again and again. She doesn't enjoy her job any more and would like to do something different.

Jane's job is **boring**.

Jane is **bored** (with her job).

Somebody is **bored** if something (or somebody else) is **boring**. Or, if something is **boring**, it makes you **bored**. So:

- Jane is **bored** because her job is **boring**.
- Jane's job is **boring**, so Jane is **bored**. (*not* Jane is boring)

If a person is **boring**, this means that they make other people **bored**:

- George always talks about the same things. He's really **boring**.

B

Compare adjectives ending in **-ing** and **-ed**:

- My job is **boring**. / **interesting**. / **tiring**. / **satisfying**. / **depressing**. (etc.)

In these examples, the **-ing** adjective tells you about the job.

- I'm **bored** with my job.
- I'm not **interested** in my job any more.
- I get very **tired** doing my job.
- I'm not **satisfied** with my job.
- My job makes me **depressed**. (etc.)

In these examples, the **-ed** adjective tells you how somebody feels (about the job).

Compare these examples:

interesting

- Julia thinks politics is **interesting**.
- Did you meet anyone **interesting** at the party?

surprising

- It was **surprising** that he passed the exam.

disappointing

- The movie was **disappointing**. We expected it to be much better.

shocking

- The news was **shocking**.

interested

- Julia is **interested** in politics. (*not* interesting in politics)
- Are you **interested** in buying a car? I'm trying to sell mine.

surprised

- Everybody was **surprised** that he passed the exam.

disappointed

- We were **disappointed** with the movie. We expected it to be much better.

shocked

- I was **shocked** when I heard the news.

Unit 99

Adjectives: a **nice new** house, you look **tired**

A

Sometimes we use two or more adjectives together:

- My brother lives in a **nice new** house.
- In the kitchen there was a **beautiful large round wooden** table.

Adjectives like **new/large/round/wooden** are *fact* adjectives. They give us factual information about age, size, colour etc.

Adjectives like **nice/beautiful** are *opinion* adjectives. They tell us what somebody thinks of something or somebody.

Opinion adjectives usually go before fact adjectives.

	opinion	*fact*	
a	**nice**	**long**	summer holiday
an	**interesting**	**young**	man
	delicious	**hot**	vegetable soup
a	**beautiful**	**large round wooden**	table

B

Sometimes we use two or more fact adjectives together. Usually (but not always) we put fact adjectives in this order:

1	2	3	4	5	
how big? →	how old? →	what colour? →	where from? →	what is it made of? →	NOUN

- a **tall young** man (1 → 2)
- **big blue** eyes (1 → 3)
- a **small black plastic** bag (1 → 3 → 5)
- a **large wooden** table (1 → 5)
- an **old Russian** song (2 → 4)
- an **old white cotton** shirt (2 → 3 → 5)

Adjectives of size and length (**big/small/tall/short/long** etc.) usually go before adjectives of shape and width (**round/fat/thin/slim/wide** etc.):

a **large round** table a **tall thin** girl a **long narrow** street

When there are two or more colour adjectives, we use **and**:

a **black and white** dress a **red, white and green** flag

This does not usually happen with other adjectives before a noun:

a **long black** dress (*not* a long and black dress)

C

We use adjectives after **be/get/become/seem**:

- **Be careful**!
- **I'm tired** and **I'm getting hungry**.
- As the film went on, it **became** more and more **boring**.
- Your friend **seems** very **nice**.

We also use adjectives to say how somebody/something looks, feels, sounds, tastes or smells:

- You **look tired**. / I **feel tired**. / She **sounds tired**.
- The dinner **smells good**.
- This tea **tastes** a bit **strange**.

But to say *how* somebody *does something* you must use an *adverb* (see Units 100–101):

- Drive **carefully**! (*not* Drive careful)
- Susan plays the piano very **well**. (*not* plays ... very good)

D

We say 'the **first two** days / the **next few** weeks / the **last ten** minutes' etc. :

- I didn't enjoy the **first two** days of the course. (*not* the two first days)
- They'll be away for the **next few** weeks. (*not* the few next weeks)

Adverbs → **Units 100–101** Comparison (**cheaper** etc.) → **Units 105–107**
Superlatives (**cheapest** etc.) → **Unit 108**

Unit 100

Adjectives and adverbs 1 (quick/quickly)

A

Look at these examples:

- Our holiday was too short – the time passed very **quickly**.
- Two people were **seriously** injured in the accident.

Quickly and **seriously** are *adverbs*. Many adverbs are formed from an adjective + **-ly**:

adjective:	quick	serious	careful	quiet	heavy	bad
adverb:	quick**ly**	serious**ly**	careful**ly**	quiet**ly**	heavi**ly**	bad**ly**

For spelling, see Appendix 6.

Not all words ending in **-ly** are adverbs. Some *adjectives* end in **-ly** too, for example:
friendly **lively** **elderly** **lonely** **silly** **lovely**

B

Adjective or adverb?

Adjectives (**quick/careful** etc.) tell us about a *noun* (somebody or something). We use adjectives before nouns:

- Sam is a **careful driver**. (*not* a carefully driver)
- We didn't go out because of the **heavy rain**.

Adverbs (**quickly/carefully** etc.) tell us about a *verb* (*how* somebody does something or *how* something happens):

- Sam **drove carefully** along the narrow road. (*not* drove careful)
- We didn't go out because it was **raining heavily**. (*not* raining heavy)

Compare:

- She speaks **perfect English**. *adjective + noun*
- She **speaks English perfectly**. *verb + noun + adverb*

We also use adjectives after some verbs, especially **be**, and also **look/feel/sound** etc. Compare:

- Please **be quiet**.
- I was disappointed that my exam results **were** so **bad**.
- Why do you always **look** so **serious**?
- I **feel happy**.

- Please **speak quietly**.
- I was unhappy that I **did** so **badly** in the exam. (*not* did so bad)
- Why do you never **take** me **seriously**?
- The children were **playing happily**.

C

We also use adverbs before *adjectives* and *other adverbs*. For example:

reasonably cheap	*(adverb + adjective)*
terribly sorry	*(adverb + adjective)*
incredibly quickly	*(adverb + adverb)*

- It's a **reasonably cheap** restaurant and the food is **extremely good**.
- I'm **terribly sorry**. I didn't mean to push you. (*not* terrible sorry)
- Maria learns languages **incredibly quickly**.
- The exam was **surprisingly easy**.

You can also use an adverb before a *past participle* (**injured/organised/written** etc.):

- Two people were **seriously injured** in the accident. (*not* serious injured)
- The meeting was **badly organised**.

Adjectives after **be/look/feel** etc. → **Unit 99C** Adjectives and adverbs 2 → **Unit 101**

Unit 101

Adjectives and adverbs 2 (well/fast/late, hard/hardly)

A Good/well

Good is an *adjective*. The *adverb* is **well**:

- Your English is **good**. *but* You **speak** English **well**.
- Susan is a **good** pianist. *but* Susan **plays** the piano **well**.

We use **well** (*not* good) with *past participles* (**dressed/known** etc.):

well-dressed **well-known** **well-educated** **well-paid**

- Gary's father is a **well-known** writer.

But **well** is also an adjective with the meaning 'in good health':

- 'How are you today?' 'I'm very **well**, thanks.'

B Fast/hard/late

These words are both adjectives and adverbs:

adjective	*adverb*
Darren is a very **fast runner**.	Darren can **run** very **fast**.
Kate is a **hard worker**.	Kate **works hard**. (*not* works hardly)
I was **late**.	I **got up late** this morning.

Lately = recently:

- Have you seen Tom **lately**?

C Hardly

Hardly = very little, almost not. Study these examples:

- Sarah wasn't very friendly at the party. She **hardly** spoke to me. (= she spoke to me very little, almost not at all)
- We've only met once or twice. We **hardly** know each other.

Hard and **hardly** are different. Compare:

- He tried **hard** to find a job, but he had no luck. (= he tried a lot, with a lot of effort)
- I'm not surprised he didn't find a job. He **hardly** tried. (= he tried very little)

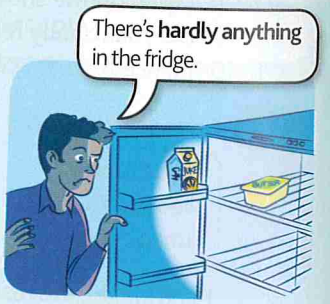
I **can hardly** do something = it's very difficult for me, almost impossible:

- Your writing is terrible. I **can hardly** read it. (= it is almost impossible to read it)
- My leg was hurting. I **could hardly** walk.

D

You can use **hardly** + **any/anybody/anyone/anything/anywhere**:

- A: How much money have we got?
  B: **Hardly any**. (= very little, almost none)
- These two cameras are very similar. There's **hardly any** difference between them.
- The exam results were very bad. **Hardly anybody** in our class passed. (= very few students passed)



Note that you can say:

- She said **hardly anything**. *or* She **hardly** said **anything**.
- We've got **hardly any** money. *or* We've **hardly** got **any** money.

Hardly ever = almost never:

- I'm nearly always at home in the evenings. I **hardly ever** go out.

Hardly also means 'certainly not'. For example:

- It's **hardly surprising** that you're tired. You haven't slept for three days. (= it's certainly not surprising)
- The situation is serious, but it's **hardly a crisis**. (= it's certainly not a crisis)

Adjectives after verbs (**'You look tired'** etc.) → **Unit 99C** Adjectives and adverbs 1 → **Unit 100**