

## RELATIVE CLAUSES – Exercises

1.) Complete with the correct relative adverb (why, where, when) or pronoun (who, which, whose):

1. This is the bank ..... was robbed yesterday
2. A boy ..... sister is in my class was in the back at that time
3. A greengrocer's is a shop ..... you can buy vegetables.
4. The man ..... robbed the bank had two pistols.
5. He wore a mask ..... made him look like Mickey Mouse.
6. This is the church ..... Sue and Peter got married.
7. He came with a friend ..... waited outside in the car.
8. The woman ..... gave him the money was young.
9. This is the station ..... Emily met James.
10. 25 December is the day ..... children in the UK get their Christmas presents.
11. The bag ..... contained the money was yellow.
12. The people ..... were in the bank were very frightened.
13. Edinburgh is the town ..... Alexander Graham Bell was born.
14. A man ..... mobile was ringing did not know what to do.
15. A woman ..... daughter was crying tried to calm her.
16. The day ..... I arrived was very nice.
17. The car ..... the bank robbers escaped in was orange.
18. The robber ..... mask was obviously too big didn't drive.
19. July and August are the months ..... most people go on holiday.
20. The man ..... drove the car was nervous.
21. He didn't wait at the traffic lights ..... were red.
22. A horror film was the reason ..... I couldn't sleep last night.
23. A police officer ..... car was parked at the next corner stopped.
24. Do you know the reason ..... so many people in the world learn English?
25. A famine was the reason ..... so many Irish people emigrated to the USA in the 19th century.

### SUBJECT AND OBJECT PRONOUNS:

If the relative pronoun is **followed by a verb**, the relative pronoun is a subject pronoun. **Subject pronouns must always be used.**

eg. The apple *which* is lying on the table is from the new supermarket

If the relative pronoun is not **followed** by a verb (but **by a noun or pronoun**), the relative pronoun is an object pronoun. **Object pronouns can be dropped in defining relative clauses**, which are then called **Contact Clauses**.

eg. The apple (*which*) George lay on the table was put back into the basket.

**2.) Say if the following pronouns are a subject pronoun or an object pronoun:**

1. Do you know the girl **who** I danced with?
2. Do you know the girl **who** danced with me?
3. The apples **that** are lying on the table are bad.
4. The apples **that** we bought in the shop are bad.
5. We will stay at a hotel **which** is not far from the beach.
6. We will stay at a hotel **which** my friend has recommended to us.
7. That is a museum **which** I like very much.
8. That is a museum **which** lies in the heart of the town.
9. This is the man **who** Barbara visited in Scotland.
10. This is the man **who** lives in Scotland.

**3.) Which of these pronouns can be omitted and which are necessary?**

1. A calendar is something **which** tells you the date.
2. Strikers are soccer players **who** try to score goals for their team.
3. Jane is a person **who** everybody likes.
4. A stamp is something **which** you put on a letter if you want to send it.
5. The Thames is a river **which** runs through London.
6. Cheese is food **which** mice like eating.
7. A racket is something **which** you use to hit a ball when you play tennis or badminton.
8. Socks are things **which** you wear on your feet.
9. A guide is a person **who** shows tourists around a place.
10. Love is a feeling **which** nobody can describe.

**4.) Combine the sentences using a relative clause. Use relative pronouns only where necessary and remember to use commas with non-defining sentences.**

1. We spent our holiday in Scotland last year. Scotland is in the north of Great Britain.  
Last year we
2. People live in Scotland. They are called Scots.  
The people
3. We first went to Edinburgh. Edinburgh is the capital of Scotland.  
We first
4. Arthur Conan Doyle was born in Edinburgh. He wrote the Sherlock Holmes stories.  
Arthur Conan Doyle
5. Then we visited a lake. It is in the Highlands.  
The lake
6. Loch Ness is 37 km long. People know it for its friendly monster.  
Loch Ness

7. There we met an old man. He told us that he had seen Nessie.  
An old man
8. We then travelled to a mountain. The mountain is near the town of Fort William.  
We then
9. The mountain is the highest mountain in Great Britain. It is called Ben Nevis.  
The mountain
10. I sent you a postcard. It was written on the summit of Ben Nevis.  
The postcard

**TEST:**

**1.) Fill in the gaps with the correct relative pronoun or adverb:**

1. The woman ..... is sitting at the desk is Mr Winter's secretary.
2. I cannot remember the reason ..... he wanted us to leave.
3. Jane, ..... mother is a physician, is very good at biology.
4. She didn't see the snake ..... was lying on the ground.
5. Do you know the shop ..... Andrew picked me up?

**2.) Combine the sentences with relative clauses. (Decide whether to use commas or not.)**

1. A monk is a man. The man has devoted his life to God.  
A monk
2. I have one black cat. His name is Blacky.  
I have
3. A herbivore is an animal. The animal feeds upon vegetation.  
A herbivore
4. Carol plays the piano brilliantly. She is only 9 years old.  
Carol
5. Sydney is the largest Australian city. It is not the capital of Australia.  
Sydney

**3.) Combine the sentences with contact clauses.**

1. We ordered a book. It was very expensive.
2. You are sitting on a bench. The paint on the bench is still wet.
3. The photographer could not develop the pictures. I had taken them in Australia.
4. One of the bins smells awful. You haven't emptied the bin for 3 weeks.
5. They are singing a song. I don't know the song.

**4.) Combine the sentences with relative clauses or contact clauses. Use contact clauses where possible. (Decide whether to use commas or not.)**

1. The city seems to be abandoned. It is usually crowded with people.  
The city
2. You made an offer. We cannot accept it.

We

3. A midwife is a woman. She assists other women in childbirth.

A woman

4. Three youngsters were arrested by the police. They had committed criminal offences.

The police

5. The World Wide Web has become an essential part of our lives. It was invented by Tim Berners-Lee.

Tim Berners-Lee