

DEFINING RELATIVE CLAUSES

B1 | Teens / Adults | Grammar Practice | 35-45 minutes

Learn and practise | Identify people, things and places clearly.

1. READ: Finding a lost bag

Read the conversation. Notice the bold grammar and how the speakers use it.

Staff: Which bag have you lost?

Tom: The one **that has** a yellow strap. I left it on the train.

Staff: Was it on a seat?

Tom: Yes, beside the woman **who was reading** a newspaper.

Staff: And which station did you get off at?

Tom: The station **where we changed** trains. I think it's called Northgate.

2. GRAMMAR: Essential information

Use a defining relative clause to say exactly which person, thing or place you mean.

Use / form	Pattern	Example
Person	who / that	The woman who was reading...
Thing	which / that	The bag that has a strap...
Place	where	The station where we changed...

Possession: the student whose bike was stolen.

No commas: the clause identifies the person or thing.

An object pronoun can be omitted: the bag (that) I lost. A subject pronoun cannot.

A. CHOOSE

Circle the correct option in each sentence.

1. The man who / which helped us is here.
2. This is the bag who / that I lost.
3. That's the cafe where / which we met.
4. She's the student whose / who bike was stolen.
5. I need a phone that works / it works.
6. The person who called / called me was Jo.
7. It's the film which I watched / I watched it.
8. We visited the town where / who I grew up.

Read each answer aloud. Explain which meaning or time clue helped you.

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Use it | Complete a context, write sentences and speak with a partner.

B. COMPLETE: At lost property

Choose the correct relative word from the options.

1. The student _____ (who / which) found my bag is in this class.
2. The bag _____ (that / where) I lost has a yellow strap.
3. This is the office _____ (where / who) lost items are kept.
4. The woman _____ (whose / which) phone I borrowed was very helpful.
5. I need the receipt _____ (who / that) proves I paid.
6. The driver _____ (who / where) helped me called the station.

C. CHANGE THE SENTENCES

1-2: Join using who or that.

Example: A woman helped me. She lives here. **The woman who helped me lives here.**

1. A man called me. He works here.
2. I bought a phone. It has a good camera.

3-4: Join using where or whose. Example: We met in a cafe. It's closed. **The cafe where we met is closed.**

3. We met in a park. It's nearby.
4. A student's bike was stolen. She is here.

D. WRITE ABOUT YOU

Describe a person, a thing and a place without naming them. Use a relative clause in each sentence.

Example: **It's a place where you borrow books. It's a person who repairs bikes.**

E. SPEAK WITH A PARTNER

Read your descriptions. Your partner guesses the person, object or place.

Ask for another clue using **What does it do?** or **Where is it?**

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Answer key | Keep this page separate during student practice.

1. READ: Finding a lost bag

Sample target language from the conversation:

Tom: The one **that has** a yellow strap. I left it on the train.

Tom: Yes, beside the woman **who was reading** a newspaper.

Tom: The station **where we changed** trains. I think it's called Northgate.

A. CHOOSE

- | | |
|--------------|---------------|
| 1. who | 2. that |
| 3. where | 4. whose |
| 5. works | 6. who called |
| 7. I watched | 8. where |

B. COMPLETE: At lost property

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. who | 2. that (or omission) |
| 3. where | 4. whose |
| 5. that (or which) | 6. who (or that) |

C. CHANGE THE SENTENCES

1. The man who called me works here. / The man that called me works here.
2. I bought a phone that has a good camera. / I bought a phone which has a good camera.
3. The park where we met is nearby.
4. The student whose bike was stolen is here.

D. WRITE ABOUT YOU / E. SPEAK

Personal answers will vary. Check the target grammar.

Sample: It is a place where you buy medicine. It is a person who teaches children. It is a device that takes photos.

Teacher note: Accept who/that for people and which/that for things. Do not omit subject relative pronouns. Teach non-defining clauses separately at B2.