

NON-DEFINING RELATIVE CLAUSES

B2 | Teens / Adults | Grammar Practice | 35-45 minutes

Learn and practise | Add extra information without changing who or what is identified.

1. READ: A friend's new project

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

Suki: Have you heard about Elena's exhibition?

Will: Yes. Elena, **who used to work with me**, sent an invitation.

Suki: It's at the Riverside Gallery, **which opened last year**.

Will: I haven't been there. Is it easy to find?

Suki: Very. My brother, **whose flat is nearby**, says the bus stops outside.

Will: Great. I'll go on Saturday and have a look.

2. GRAMMAR: Extra information, separated by commas

Use non-defining relative clauses to add extra information about an already identified person or thing.

Use / form	Pattern	Example
Person	commas + who + clause	Jo, who lives nearby, came.
Thing	commas + which + clause	The gallery, which is new, ...
Possession / place	whose / where	Ben, whose flat is nearby, ...

Do not use that or omit the relative pronoun in a non-defining clause.

Contrast: The students who arrived early got seats. (only those students)

The students, who arrived early, got seats. (all those students; extra information)

A. CHOOSE

Circle the correct option in each sentence.

- Jo, who / that lives nearby, helped.
- My car, which / that is old, broke down.
- Ben, whose / who sister teaches, came.
- Paris, where / which I studied, is busy.
- The book, which I lent / I lent you, is rare.
- My aunt who lives in York is visiting. (Essential / Extra information.)
- My aunt, who lives in York, is visiting. (Essential / Extra information.)
- The gallery, which / that opened last year, is popular.

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: An exhibition invitation

Choose the relative word for each non-defining clause. The commas are already provided.

1. Elena, _____ (who / that) lives nearby, invited us.
2. The Riverside Gallery, _____ (which / that) opened last year, is the venue.
3. My brother, _____ (whose / who) flat is nearby, knows the area.
4. York, _____ (where / which) I studied, has several galleries.
5. The invitation, _____ (which / that) arrived today, includes a map.
6. Jo, _____ (who / which) I met at college, is coming too.

C. CHANGE THE SENTENCES

1-2: Join with a non-defining clause and commas.

Example: Jo lives nearby. Jo helped. **Jo, who lives nearby, helped.**

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|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Ben is a chef. Ben cooked. | 2. Jo's bike is red. Jo arrived. |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|

3-4: Join with a non-defining clause and commas. Example: My car is old. It broke down. **My car, which is old, broke down.**

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|--|---|
| 3. Our hotel is near the station. It has a rooftop cafe. | 4. York is where I studied. I visited York. |
|--|---|

D. WRITE ABOUT YOU

Write three sentences adding extra information about a named person, a known object and a place.

Example: **Jo, who works with me, loves art. My bike, which is ten years old, still works.**

E. SPEAK WITH A PARTNER

Describe people and places your partner can identify. Add useful extra details.

Then compare a sentence with commas and one without. How does the meaning change?

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Answer key | Keep this page separate during student practice.

1. READ: A friend's new project

Sample target language from the conversation:

Will: Yes. Elena, **who used to work with me**, sent an invitation.

Suki: It's at the Riverside Gallery, **which opened last year**.

Suki: Very. My brother, **whose flat is nearby**, says the bus stops outside.

A. CHOOSE

- | | |
|-----------------|--------------|
| 1. who | 2. which |
| 3. whose | 4. where |
| 5. which I lent | 6. Essential |
| 7. Extra | 8. which |

B. COMPLETE: An exhibition invitation

- | | |
|----------|---|
| 1. who | 2. which |
| 3. whose | 4. where |
| 5. which | 6. who (whom also possible in formal style) |

C. CHANGE THE SENTENCES

1. Ben, who is a chef, cooked.
2. Jo, whose bike is red, arrived.
3. Our hotel, which is near the station, has a rooftop cafe.
4. I visited York, where I studied.

D. WRITE ABOUT YOU / E. SPEAK

Personal answers will vary. Check the target grammar.

Sample: Jo, who lives nearby, came for dinner. My phone, which is old, still works. Leeds, where I studied, is a busy city.

Teacher note: A6-7 test meaning rather than verb form. Discuss the intended reference: punctuation alone does not tell us how many aunts someone has.