

RELATIVE CLAUSES

Relative clauses are introduced by a relative pronoun. Here is a list of relative pronouns:

who/whom	when	whose
which	where	that
what	why	how

As you can see, all of these relative pronouns, except for "that" and "how" begin with "wh." In addition, most of them can be used to form questions. When you have one of these words, you probably have a relative clause.

Relative clauses usually come in the middle or end of a sentence: see the underlined examples.

John married the woman who is standing by the window.
The woman who is standing by the window is John's wife.

The words that are not underlined must form a complete sentence, with a subject and a verb.

S V
John married the woman.

 S V
The woman is John's wife.

Underline the relative clauses in the following sentences.

1. A woman who knows everybody spends much time on the telephone.
2. Alicia, who is Janet's best friend, is a writer for soap operas.
3. She often asks Janet for gossip which can be used in her programs.
4. Janet's friends all watch Alicia's programs, which often seem strangely like their own lives.
5. The house that Jack built is not very sturdy.
6. The stylish windows, which Janet Jensen dislikes, don't close properly.
7. Jack, whom Janet blames for her uncomfortable house, considers himself an artist.
8. Every summer he displays his paintings, which people buy at a high price.
9. Jack should limit his creative impulse to painting, which he does well.
10. Iris enjoys talking to Alice, whose advice she always ignores.
11. The help that I received at the Writing Lab helped me to pass GSb 101.

Underline the relative clauses in the following sentences. In these examples, the relative pronoun is absent, and only "understood."

1. By now I know all of the algebra (that) you know.
2. I did not have the same lessons (that) you had.
3. I took the same course (that) you took.
4. Now I work in the company (which) my uncle owns.
5. I live in the city (that) I know best.

Form sentences with relative clauses from the following sentences:

Example: I stared at a woman. The woman was my age.

I stared at a woman who was my age.

(ANSWERS MAY VARY)

1. I stared at a woman **who** was wearing a large hat with yellow flowers.
2. The woman **who was in my Math class** was walking down Walnut Street.
3. Merlin's was filled with people **who** were talking very loudly.
4. I went to MacDonald's and ordered a vanilla milkshake **which** is about two dollars.