

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. Is the portion of the sentence which is not underlined complete? Mark the subject and verb of the non-underlined portion of the sentence.

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.

Circle the relative clauses in the following parts of sentences, and then finish the sentences. What is the subject and verb of the uncircled part?

1. My brother, who comes to Carbondale often, _____
_____.

2. My landlord, who charges me \$100 rent every month, _____
_____.

3. _____ my tutor,
who works with me at the Writing Lab.

4. _____ my roommate,
who often forgets to do the dishes after supper.

5. My friend Harold, _____,
is having a party this Saturday.

Now finish the relative clauses:

1. Michael, who _____,
is busy working in the library.

2. My house, which _____,
needs a new coat of paint.

3. Chicago, which _____,
is only a short train ride from Carbondale.

4. I sometimes go to Merlin's, where _____
_____.

5. Schlitz is the beer that _____.

Sometimes a relative pronoun (who, which, that, etc.) can be absent from the clause and only "understood." Compare these sentences:

John has the same illness that Michael has.
John has the same illness Michael has.

The sandwich which I just ate was truly delicious.
The sandwich I just ate was truly delicious.

I know that you know the material for the test.
I know you know the material for the test.

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 you know.
2. I did not have the same lessons you had.
3. I took the same course you took.
4. Now I work in the company my uncle owns.
5. I live in the city 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.

1. I stared at a woman. The woman was wearing a large hat with yellow flowers.

2. The woman was walking down Walnut Street. The woman was in my Math class.

3. Merlin's was filled with people. The people were talking very loudly.

4. I went to MacDonald's and ordered a vanilla milkshake. A vanilla milkshake is about two dollars.
