RELATIVE CLAUSES

Guía de teoría, ejemplos y 80 ejercicios con soluciones

Marco teórico

Qué son las relative clauses

Las relative clauses son oraciones subordinadas que describen o identifican un sustantivo. Permiten unir ideas y evitar repeticiones. Por ejemplo: The girl is my friend. She lives next door. → The girl who lives next door is my friend.

Defining relative clauses: información imprescindible

Identifican exactamente de quién o de qué hablamos: The students who practise regularly improve faster. No llevan comas. Podemos utilizar who, which, that, whose, where y when según el contexto.

Non-defining relative clauses: información adicional

Añaden información secundaria y se separan mediante comas: My brother, who lives in Manchester, is visiting. Si eliminamos la subordinada, la oración principal sigue identificando a la persona. Nunca se usa that en este tipo de estructura.

Who, whom, which y that

Who se refiere a personas; whom se utiliza formalmente cuando es objeto, especialmente tras una preposición; which se refiere a cosas o animales; that puede referirse a personas o cosas en defining clauses. Ejemplo: The teacher (who/whom/that) I met was friendly.

Whose: expresar posesión

Whose equivale a cuyo, cuya, cuyos o cuyas. No se limita a personas: The company whose offices were flooded reopened. La forma whose va seguida de un sustantivo.

Where, when y why

Where introduce lugares, when momentos y why razones: the school where I studied; the year when we met; the reason why I called. También podemos usar preposición + which en registros más formales: the school at which I studied.

Cuándo se omite el pronombre relativo

En defining clauses, si el relativo es objeto, se puede omitir: The film (which/that) we watched. Si es sujeto, no: The film that won the award. Tampoco puede omitirse en non-defining clauses.

Preposiciones y estilo formal

En registros formales se puede anteponer la preposición: The colleague to whom I spoke; the topic about which we argued. En inglés cotidiano suele ir al final: The colleague I spoke to; the topic we

argued about.

Errores frecuentes que debes evitar

No combines el relativo con un pronombre redundante: The man who I met him es incorrecto. No uses that en non-defining clauses ni confundas whose con who. Revisa si la subordinada identifica al referente o solo añade información.

Cómo practicar para Cambridge y mejorar tu writing

Trabaja primero la distinción entre defining y non-defining; después practica omisiones, posesión y preposiciones. En writing, las relative clauses aportan cohesión y precisión. Revisa siempre la puntuación, la función sintáctica y el registro.

Mapa rápido de relativos

WHO	Personas
WHICH	Cosas / animales
THAT	Defining: personas o cosas
WHOSE	Posesión
WHERE	Lugar
WHEN	Tiempo
WHY	Razón
WHOM	Objeto formal

Ejercicios: intenta resolver antes de consultar las soluciones

Bloque 1 · Completa con el relativo adecuado

1. The woman ___ teaches us English is from Bristol.
2. The book ___ I borrowed was fascinating.
3. The café ___ we met is near the station.
4. The boy ___ bike was stolen called the police.
5. The day ___ we first met was unforgettable.
6. The scientist ___ discovered the formula won a prize.
7. The laptop ___ broke yesterday is under warranty.
8. The family ___ lives next door has three dogs.
9. The city ___ she grew up is very small.
10. The actor ___ performance impressed us won an award.
11. The reason ___ he resigned remains unclear.
12. The students ___ finished early could leave.
13. The painting ___ you bought looks beautiful.
14. The hotel ___ we stayed had a pool.
15. The colleague ___ advice helped me has retired.
16. The summer ___ we moved abroad was very hot.
17. The phone ___ is ringing belongs to Emma.
18. The teacher ___ you spoke to is my aunt.
19. The village ___ my grandparents live is remote.
20. The musician ___ songs we love is touring.

Bloque 2 · Une las frases con una relative clause

1. My sister lives in Leeds. She is a doctor.
2. The car is electric. I bought it last month.
3. The boy won the race. His father is a coach.
4. We visited a museum. It opened in 1890.
5. That is the house. I was born there.
6. I met a writer. Her novels are translated worldwide.
7. Monday was the day. We received the results then.
8. The man is my neighbour. He helped you.
9. The film was excellent. We watched it yesterday.
10. This is the restaurant. We celebrated there.

11. Our headteacher is retiring. She has worked here for 30 years.
12. The student passed. Her project was outstanding.
13. I lost the key. It opens the garage.
14. The park is beautiful. We walk there every weekend.
15. The year was 2019. They moved to Spain then.
16. The man is an engineer. I spoke to him.
17. The woman is a pilot. Her daughter studies here.
18. My laptop has stopped working. It is only six months old.
19. The café has closed. We used to study there.
20. The novel is on the shelf. You recommended it.

Bloque 3 · Encuentra el error y corrige la frase

1. My brother, that lives in London, is a nurse.
2. The girl which won the prize is 15.
3. This is the person which I told you about.
4. The hotel who we stayed in was expensive.
5. The woman who her bag was lost called reception.
6. My car, that is red, is outside.
7. The house where I bought is old.
8. The man whose works here is my uncle.
9. That is the day where we met.
10. The book who is on the table is mine.
11. She is the teacher whose teaches French.
12. My father which is retired loves gardening.
13. The restaurant when we ate was crowded.
14. The reason where I left is personal.
15. The boy who I met him is very friendly.
16. The town which I was born is small.
17. The student whose essay won she is here.
18. The train, that was late, finally arrived.
19. The woman which son is a doctor lives nearby.
20. This is the place when we first kissed.

Bloque 4 · Nivel avanzado: precisión y preposiciones

1. The person ___ called is my tutor.

2. The person ___ you called is my tutor.

3. The building, ___ was renovated last year, is a library.

4. The student ___ notes I borrowed is absent.

5. The room ___ we practise speaking is upstairs.

6. The year ___ I graduated was 2020.

7. The reason ___ she complained was the noise.

8. My aunt, ___ speaks Italian, lives in Rome.

9. The jacket ___ I ordered arrived today.

10. The neighbour ___ dog barks at night apologised.

11. The woman to ___ I sent the email replied.

12. The company for ___ I work is expanding.

13. The street on ___ I live is quiet.

14. The friends ___ invited us are very kind.

15. The device ___ measures temperature is broken.

16. The artist, ___ paintings are famous, is visiting.

17. The city in ___ he studied is Oxford.

18. The moment ___ I realised the mistake was embarrassing.

19. The children ___ we met were polite.

20. The reason for ___ they cancelled the trip was the weather.

Solucionario

Bloque 1 · Completa con el relativo adecuado

1. who
2. which / that / omission
3. where
4. whose
5. when
6. who
7. which / that
8. who / that
9. where
10. whose
11. why
12. who / that
13. which / that / omission
14. where
15. whose
16. when
17. which / that
18. who / whom / that / omission
19. where
20. whose

Bloque 2 · Une las frases con una relative clause

1. My sister, who is a doctor, lives in Leeds.
2. The car which/that I bought last month is electric.
3. The boy whose father is a coach won the race.
4. We visited a museum which/that opened in 1890.
5. That is the house where I was born.
6. I met a writer whose novels are translated worldwide.
7. Monday was the day when we received the results.
8. The man who/that helped you is my neighbour.
9. The film which/that we watched yesterday was excellent.

10. This is the restaurant where we celebrated.
11. Our headteacher, who has worked here for 30 years, is retiring.
12. The student whose project was outstanding passed.
13. I lost the key which/that opens the garage.
14. The park where we walk every weekend is beautiful.
15. 2019 was the year when they moved to Spain.
16. The man who/whom/that I spoke to is an engineer.
17. The woman whose daughter studies here is a pilot.
18. My laptop, which is only six months old, has stopped working.
19. The café where we used to study has closed.
20. The novel which/that you recommended is on the shelf.

Bloque 3 · Encuentra el error y corrige la frase

1. My brother, who lives in London, is a nurse.
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13. The restaurant where we ate was crowded.
14. The reason why I left is personal.
15. The boy who/that I met is very friendly.
16. The town where I was born is small.
17. The student whose essay won is here.
18. The train, which was late, finally arrived.
19. The woman whose son is a doctor lives nearby.
20. This is the place where we first kissed.

Bloque 4 · Nivel avanzado: precisión y preposiciones

1. who / that
2. who / whom / that / omission
3. which
4. whose
5. where
6. when
7. why
8. who
9. which / that / omission
10. whose
11. whom
12. which
13. which
14. who / that
15. which / that
16. whose
17. which
18. when
19. who / whom / that / omission
20. which