

# Year 6 Grammar Revision

## *Relative Clauses*



# Relative Clauses: The Rules

**Relative clauses** give **extra information** related to a previously mentioned **noun** or **pronoun** within a sentence. A relative clause always starts with a **relative pronoun**.

Jess was going to a fancy dress party.  
She was dressed as Batman.

The second sentence adds some extra information about the noun in the first sentence so we can turn it into a relative clause, like this...

Jess, **who was dressed as Batman,**  
**was going to a fancy dress party.**

*Who* is a **relative pronoun** so this clause of extra information is called a **relative clause**.  
As this is extra, non-essential (non-restrictive) information we put the clause in **commas**.

# Relative Clauses: The Rules

A relative clause almost always starts with a **relative pronoun**. Other relative pronouns are:

**that**

**whom**

**whose**

**who**

**which**



# Relative Clauses: The Rules

*Where in a sentence?*

In all of the sentences we've looked at so far, the relative clauses have always been in the **middle** of the main clause e.g.

25 Maple Street, which has been up for sale for years, is apparently haunted.

A ghost, whose name is Mr. Stonegarden, roams the corridors.

The estate agent, who badly needs a sale, is frightened to show people around.



They were all embedded\* inside the main clause.  
Therefore, we could also call them **embedded relative clauses**.  
However, relative clauses don't always have to be embedded...

\*in the middle of

# Relative Clauses: The Rules

*Where in a sentence?*

Look at this sentence. Where is the relative clause now? How do you know?

The children all did well in the spelling test,  
which made their teacher smile.

*Which* is the **relative pronoun** so this time the **relative clause** is **after** the **main clause**. We still need a **comma** before the relative clause as this is also extra, non-essential (non-restrictive) information.



# Relative Clauses: The Tricky Bits

Relative clauses can be **non-restrictive** (not essential to the meaning of the sentence) or **restrictive** (essential to the meaning of the sentence).  
Here is a restrictive relative clause...

The book that I bought yesterday cost me five pounds.

*That* is a **relative pronoun** so this is a **relative clause**. This time the information in the extra clause is essential (restrictive) to the meaning of the sentence so therefore we don't need to use commas.

Here's another example of a restrictive relative clause:

The distraught teacher threw the test papers that were full of mistakes up in the air that were full of mistakes.



## Quiz! Part 1

Tick **two** boxes to show which of the words in the sentence below are relative pronouns.



The plumber, **who** arrived late, had forgotten to bring his plunger, **which** meant he was unable to unblock our sink.



## Quiz! Part 2

Read these two sentences. Rewrite them as one sentence, which contains an **embedded relative clause**.

**Tawny owls eat mice and other small mammals.  
Tawny owls are nocturnal birds.**

**Tawny owls, which are nocturnal birds, eat mice  
and other small mammals.**

*or*

**Tawny owls, which eat mice and other small  
mammals, are nocturnal birds.**



## Quiz! Part 3

Place **commas** in the following sentences in the correct positions to demarcate the **relative clauses**.

Leo, who is very sporty, enjoys PE lessons.

The pet ambulance rushed to the injured dog, which had trapped its paw.

*Are you feeling  
confident with  
relative clauses?*

