

RELATIVE CLAUSES

Definition: A relative clause is a part of a sentence beginning with a relative pronoun (although this pronoun can be omitted in certain cases).

For example:

The company where I worked is called International Enterprises.

The man who went into the baker's bought a loaf of bread.

My sister, who lives near London, is coming to visit me soon.

Basic relative pronouns

The relative pronoun you use depends on the thing you're talking about. Generally speaking, the most basic ones are these:

1. for people - who/ that
2. for things - which/ that
3. for places - where
4. for reasons - why
5. for times - when

Who, which and *that*, cannot be used indiscriminately. 'That' can only be used in defining relative clauses.

EXERCISE - 1

Read the following sentences. There are errors in some of them. Underline the error and write the word in the space provided. Put a TICK if there is no error.

1. *The bus who goes to the station is a low-floor bus.* _____
2. *The man which was here a little while ago is a minister.* _____
3. *That's the house where the poet was born.* _____
4. *The bird whose lays the biggest egg is the ostrich.* _____
5. *Karn, where home is in Gurgaon, is studying in Manipal.* _____

EXERCISE – 2

The following newspaper article about Pataliputra contains some errors correct the article (In some places relatives need to be added; in other places, reduced relatives can be used).

Pataliputra

The fourth century BC city is believed to have existed _____ between 320 BC and AD 550 was ruled by the Mauryan and later the Gupta dynasties.

Magasthenes spent many years as an ambassador to _____

Patliputra wrote a book who is titled 'Indika'. The city, _____ who was encircled by a deep moat, had a fortified wall. _____

Ashoka, adopted Buddhism, provided _____

inns, hospitals and veterinary centres whom _____ helped the common people

This was which the first Buddhist monuments came to be built. _____

EXERCISE – 3

Join the following sentences to make one sentence using a relative pronoun.

1. There's the boy. He broke the window.

2. The film star gave a party. It cost \$10,000.

3. That's the palace. The Queen lives in it.

4. My friend came to the party. He's a policeman.

5. There are the policemen. They caught the thief.

6. What's the name of the lady? She was wearing the blue dress.

7. I gave her a watch. It stopped after two days.

8. You're reading a book. I wanted to read it.

9. The local market sells excellent local produce. It is a two-minute walk from my flat.

10. The balcony overlooks the street. You can see a long way in both directions from my balcony.

11. The price of flats in this area has risen a great deal since 1998. This means I could make money if I sold my

12. The government carried out a census. According to the census there are more people moving into the area.
