

RELATIVE CLAUSES (ORACIONES SUBORDINADAS DE RELATIVO)

1. INTRODUCCIÓN

- Las **Oraciones de Relativo** son oraciones subordinadas que sirven para dar información sobre un sustantivo (llamado **antecedente**) referido a algo o alguien.

- La oración de relativo se coloca a continuación del sustantivo (antecedente) y va introducida por un **pronombre relativo (WHO, WHICH, THAT, WHOSE)** o **adverbio relativo (WHERE, WHEN, WHY)**.

- Para crear una RELATIVE CLAUSE tenemos que unir dos oraciones en una:

a) **That man** lives next door. **That man** is very friendly.

→ The man who/that lives next door is very friendly.

s v compl

(El hombre **que vive al lado** es muy simpático.)

b) Paul has bought **a picture**. **It** is very expensive.

→ Paul has bought a picture which/that is very expensive.

s v compl

(Paul ha comprado un cuadro **que es muy caro**.)

c) We stayed in **a hotel**. **It** was near the station.

→ We stayed in a hotel which/that was near the station.

s v compl

(Nos quedamos en un hotel **que estaba cerca de la estación**.)

→ The hotel where we stayed was near the station.

compl s v

(El hotel **donde nos quedamos** estaba cerca de la estación.)

d) That's **the girl**. **Her** boyfriend had an accident yesterday.

→ That's the girl whose boyfriend had an accident yesterday.

Poss. s v obj

(Esa es la chica **cuyo novio** tuvo un accidente ayer.)

- Observa que aunque las Oraciones de Relativo son parte de una oración subordinada, ellas mismas tienen la estructura de una oración completa (sujeto – verbo – complementos).

2. PRONOMBRES y ADVERBIOS RELATIVOS

2.1. Las oraciones de relativo van introducidas por un **pronombre de relativo (who, which, that, whose)**. Estos pronombres pueden referirse a personas o a cosas y pueden realizar distintas funciones sintácticas dentro de la oración de relativo (sujeto, objeto, objeto de preposición, posesivo...).

RELATIVE PRONOUNS		
FUNCTIONS:	People	Things
Subject	WHO, THAT	WHICH, THAT
Object	WHO, THAT, Ø (*WHOM)	WHICH, THAT, Ø
Object of preposition	THAT, Ø Prep + WHOM	THAT, Ø Prep + WHICH
Possessive	WHOSE,	WHOSE, OF WHICH

- **WHO** : para personas (una o varias)

- ***WHOM** : para personas, después de preposición o con función de objeto directo en contextos formales. Se usa muy poco.

- **WHICH** : para cosas, animales y situaciones.

- **THAT** : para personas y cosas. No se puede utilizar en NON-DEFINING RELATIVE CLAUSES.

- **Ø (pronombre cero)** : los pronombres relativos WHO, WHICH or THAT se pueden omitir en algunos casos (cuando no funciona como sujeto)

- **WHOSE** : sustituye a los posesivos (my, your, his, her, its, our, your, their) y se traduce por **cuyo-a-os-as**.

2.2. Algunas oraciones de relativo van introducidas por un **adverbio relativo (when, where, why)**. Estos adverbios se refieren a expresiones de tiempo, lugares o motivos.

RELATIVE ADVERBS	
Place	WHERE : donde (para lugares)
Time	WHEN : cuando (para el tiempo)
Reason	WHY : po la que/ porque (para expresar motivos o razones)

EJEMPLOS:

A continuación se muestran ejemplos de todas las posibilidades en **oraciones de relativo "defining"**:

PEOPLE	
Subject	The man who/ that is explaining is my new teacher.
Object	The man (who/ that / Ø) you met is my teacher.
Object of preposition	The man that/who I was talking to is my teacher. The man Ø I was talking to is my teacher. The man to whom I was talking is my teacher. (formal)
Possessive	The man whose son is in hospital is my teacher.

THINGS	
Subject	The picture which/ that was painted by Klimt is nice.
Object	The picture (which / that / Ø) I bought is very expensive.
Object of preposition	The picture that/ which I was looking at was very nice. The picture Ø I was looking at was very nice. The picture at which I was looking was very nice. (formal)
Possessive	The house whose windows are broken is John's. The house the windows of which are broken is John's.

ADVERBIALS	
PLACE	The city where I live is Seville. in which I live
TIME	The year when she was born is 2008. in which she was born
REASON	The reason why I didn't go is I was ill. for which I didn't

3. DEFINING RELATIVE CLAUSES (ORACIONES DE RELATIVO ESPECIFICATIVAS)

- Se usan para definir o especificar al sustantivo – antecedente al que acompañan. **La información que proporcionan es fundamental** para saber de qué o de quién estamos hablando. Nos define la persona, animal o cosa de la que estamos hablando y los distingue de entre todos los demás.

*The man **who is talking** is my uncle.*

(El hombre **que está hablando** es mi tío)

*Paul has bought a picture **which is very expensive**.*

(Paul ha comprado un cuadro **que es muy caro**)

*The hotel **where we stayed** was near the station.*

(El hotel **donde nos quedamos** estaba cerca de la estación)

- En las DEFINING RELATIVE CLAUSES **es muy normal encontrar el pronombre relativo "THAT"** en lugar de "WHO/WHICH":

*An architect is someone **who/that designs buildings**.*

(Un arquitecto es alguien **que diseña edificios**)

*This is the watch **which/that my parents gave me for Christmas**.*

(Éste es el reloj **que mis padres me dieron por Navidad**)

- En las DEFINING RELATIVE CLAUSES, **se suele omitir el pronombre de relativo [Ø]** cuando éste funciona como objeto directo u objeto de preposición. (who-which-that se pueden omitir cuando no funcionan como el sujeto de la oración subordinada.):

*I met **that man**. He is the new teacher.*

→ *The man **(who) I met** is the new teacher.*

obj s v

(El hombre **que yo conocí** es el nuevo profesor)

*Ann bought a dress. **The dress** doesn't fit her very well.*

→ *The dress **(that) Ann bought** doesn't fit her very well.*

obj s v

(El vestido **que Ana se compró** no le queda muy bien)

***That man** is the school headmaster. I was talking to him.*

→ *The man **(that) I was talking to** is the school headmaster.*

Prep.obj s v

(El hombre **con el que yo estaba hablando** es el director del colegio)

4. SUMMARY OF DEFINING RELATIVE CLAUSES

DEFINING RELATIVE CLAUSES

- Aportan **información esencial**.

- Podemos usar **THAT**, en lugar de WHO or WHICH.

- **Se puede omitir el pronombre relativo** cuando no funciona como sujeto de la oración (funciona como OBJETO DIRECTO u OBJETO PREPOSICIONAL).

ACTIVITES: RELATIVE CLAUSES

1. Underline any relative pronouns that can be omitted in these sentences.

- I think that my boss is the person who I admire most.
- Harry, who was tired, went to bed very early.
- We're taking the train that leaves at 6.00.
- Have you seen the book that I left here on the desk?
- The film which we liked most was the French one.
- The clothes which you left behind are at the reception desk.
- The couple who met me at the station took me out to dinner.
- Last week I ran into an old friend who I hadn't seen for ages.
- Don't cook the meat that I put in the freezer - it's for the dog.

2. Underline the most suitable word in each sentence.

- My friend Jack, **that/who/ whose** parents live in Glasgow, invited me to spend Christmas in Scotland.
- Here's the computer program **that/whom/whose** I told you about.
- I don't believe the story **that/who/whom** she told us.
- This is the gun with **that/whom/which** the murder was committed.
- Have you received the parcel **whom/whose/which** we sent you?
- Is this the person **who/which/whose** you asked me about?
- That's the girl **that/who/whose** brother sits next to me at school.

3. Write a suitable relative pronoun in each space, or leave the space blank where possible.

- My bike, ...which... I had left at the gate, had disappeared.
- The shoesI bought were the ones I tried on first.
- The bag inthe robbers put the money was found later.
- The medicine the doctor gave me had no effect at all.
- I really liked that teayou made me this morning.
- What was the name of your friendtent we borrowed?
- The flight Joe was leaving on was cancelled.

4. Complete the sentences with **who, which, where** or **whose**. *Omit if possible.*

- Jenn Crowell is a seventeen-year-old girl _____ writes novels
- "Necessary Madness" is the novel _____ will be published next year
- England is the country _____ the writer has set her story
- Jenn Crowell is the girl _____ debut novel has become very popular
- The writer's workshop is the place _____ Jenn refined her ideas
- A library is a place _____ you can look at or borrow books
- Charles Dickens is the English author _____ wrote "Oliver Twist"
- Arantxa Sánchez Vicario is a Spanish sportswoman _____ used to play tennis
- Groucher college is _____ Jenn is planning to study English
- The editor _____ works with Jenn is called Liza Dawson
- The book, _____ won't be published until next year, took just 3 months to write
- You can see many famous writers _____ have lived in the city