

Relative Pronouns and Clauses



A relative pronoun is a pronoun that introduces a relative clause. Relative pronouns “relate” to the word that it modifies or describes.

We use relative pronouns after a noun to make it clear which person or thing we are talking about.



Who tells more about people.

Look at the following examples.

- The girl is in 3rd grade. She won the poster contest.
 - The girl who won the poster contest is in 3rd grade.
- Joseph is a boy. He loves to paint.
 - Joseph is a boy who loves to paint



he / she =
who

Mafalda is a girl who loves to paint. she likes to stay inside when it is raining and draw and paint all day long.



Which tells more about things.



- It is used when the Clause added is unnecessary or nonessential to the sentences understanding.
 - Jacob went to the movies, which started at three o'clock.
 - Tia ate a chocolate cake, which was full of sugar.

That tells more about people or things.

- It is used when the clause added is necessary or essential to the sentence.

Since the clause is essential, no comma is necessary.

Look at the following examples.

- The pants that Tobi wore are too short.
- Lyra can not eat foods that contain too much sugar.



Where is used for places.

- Look at the following examples.
 - This is the planet *where* we live
 - I want to study in the school where there is lots to do.



Let's practice



- This is the bank _____ was robbed yesterday.
- The man _____ robbed the bank had two pistols.
- The bag _____ contained the money was yellow.
- This is the house _____ we used to live when we were children.