

Relative clauses extra information clauses

7.

A

There are two types of relative clause. In these examples, the relative clauses are underlined. Compare:

Type 1

- The woman who lives next door is a doctor.
- Barbara works for a company that makes furniture.
- We stayed at the hotel (that) you recommended.

In these examples, the relative clause tells you which person or thing (or what kind of person or thing) the speaker means:

'The woman who lives next door' tells us *which* woman.

'A company that makes furniture' tells us *what kind* of company.

'The hotel (that) Ann recommended' tells us *which* hotel.

We do not use commas (,) with these clauses:

- We know a lot of people who live in London.

Type 2

- My brother Rob, who lives in Australia, is a doctor.
- Colin told me about his new job, which he's enjoying very much.
- We stayed at the Park Hotel, which a friend of ours recommended.

In these examples, the relative clauses do not tell you which person or thing the speaker means. We already know which thing or person is meant: 'My brother Rob', 'Colin's new job' and 'the Park Hotel'.

The relative clauses in these sentences give us *extra information* about the person or thing.

We use commas (,) with these clauses:

- My brother Rob, who lives in London, is a doctor.

B

In both types of relative clause we use **who** for people and **which** for things. But:

Type 1

You can use **that**:

- Do you know anyone who/that speaks French and Italian?
- Barbara works for a company which/that makes furniture.

You can leave out **who/which/that** when it is the object (see Unit 93):

- We stayed at the hotel (that/which) you recommended.
- This morning I met somebody (who/that) I hadn't seen for ages.

We do not often use **whom** in this type of clause (see Unit 94B).

Type 2

You cannot use **that**:

- John, who (not that) speaks French and Italian, works as a tourist guide.
- Colin told me about his new job, which (not that) he's enjoying very much.

You cannot leave out **who** or **which**:

- We stayed at the Park Hotel, which a friend of ours recommended.
- This morning I met Chris, who I hadn't seen for ages.

You can use **whom** for people (when it is the object):

- This morning I met Chris, whom I hadn't seen for ages.

In both types of relative clause you can use **whose** and **where**:

- We met some people whose car had broken down.
- What's the name of the place where you went on holiday?

- Liz, whose car had broken down, was in a very bad mood.
- Jill has just been to Sweden, where her daughter lives.