# DEFINING & NON-DEFINING RELATIVE CLAUSES

 **Defining relative clauses function as adjective equivalent which is essential to the meaning of the sentence.**

 **They define nouns in order to distinguish similar persons or things in order to diminish ambiguity**

 **They relate to known facts in order to explain something new.**

 **Contact clauses (leaving out the relative pronoun) are common in spoken English.**

* **Non-defining relative clauses do not help us to identify someone or something. They give additional, interesting information which is *not* essential to the meaning of the sentence.    
  The information given in the non-defining relative clauses can be accompanied (really or virtually) by the phrase "by the way". The commas have a similar function to brackets.**
* **Relative pronouns can’t be omitted. That can’t be used.**

 Non- defining relative clauses are mostly used in written English.

A - DECIDE WETHER THE FOLLOWING WORDS IN BOLD SHOULD TAKE A DEFINING OR

A NON-DEFINING RELATIVE CLAUSE AFTER THEM:

1.- **The person** is not in at the moment.

2.- **The book** was a detective story.

3.- **My two bothers** are coming for dinner on Christmas Day.

4.- **The knife** is in a drawer in the kitchen.

5.- **Sally** is going through a serious depression.

6.- **The Internet** can be addictive sometimes.

7.- **The hotel** was quite close to the beach.

8.- We visited **The British Museum.**

9.- She introduced me to **her boyfriend.**

10.- Mrs. Brown is looking for **a woman.**

11.- **The people** lost all their belongings.

12.- Is there **an empty cupboard?**

13.- **Harry Parker** didn’t look too worried about his future life in prison.

14.- **The students** have to do the exam again.

15.- **The Party Time Restaurant** offers special discounts at weekends.

16.- She was bought up by **a widow aunt.**

17.- Nobody found **the cave.**

18.- **Susan** doesn’t know what to do with them at Christmas because she has to work.

19.- **The little boy** didn’t even apologise.

20**.- Brian** is very popular at High School.

## B - MATCH THE SENTENCES ABOVE WITH THE CLAUSES IN THE BOX BELOW USING THE

**NECESSARY RELATIVE PRONOUN:**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|  | SUBJECT CLAUSE WHO/WHICH | OBJECT CLAUSE  **(THAT) WHO/WHICH/WHOM** | POSSESSIVE CLAUSE WHOSE | PLACE CLAUSE WHERE |
| A | Can help her with her housework | The jury sentenced to ten years | dog died last month | You can see a lot of Egyptian remains |
| B | Is surfed by most people | I last read | Husband had died shortly after getting married | You can find the biggest burgers |
| C | live abroad | You want to talk to | Names are on that list | I can put my clothes |
| D | Is a famous football player | You need to cut the bread with | House was destroyed by the fire | We stayed last summer |
| E | Broke the living room window | All the students admire | Children are on holiday | The treasure was hidden |

1.- The person (that) you want to talk to is not in at the moment.

2.- \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

3.- \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

4.- \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

5.- \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

6.- \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

7.- \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

8.- \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

9.- \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

10.- \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

11.- \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

12.- \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

13.- \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

14.- \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

15.- \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

16.- \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

17.- \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

18.- \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

19.- \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

20.- \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

## C - FINISH THE SENTENCES USING EITHER A DEFINING OR NON-DEFINING RELATIVE

**CLAUSE AS NECESSARY:**

1.- I want to see the house ...

2.- She was wearing a dress ...

3.- In that square, there used to be a little café ...

4.- I asked the waiter to take me to the restaurant manager ...

5.- I didn’t know the lady ...

6.- Sometimes they watch TV programmes ...

7.- Don’t use the scissors ...

8.- I’d like to go to Venice ...

9.- Is there anything ... ?

10.- We always go to Dr. Brown ...

11.- She liked the boots ...

12.- I haven’t heard from David ...

13.- Is that the bedroom ... ?

14.- The police haven’t been able to catch the man ...

15.- She came to the party with her new boyfriend ...

16.- We went to Mary’s flat ...

17- He didn’t show me the photographs ...

18- Graham Bell invented the telephone ...



EXERCISE B

1.- The person (that) you want to talk to is not in at the moment. (Defining-Object clause)

2.- The book (that) I last read was a detective story. (Defining- Object clause)

3.- My two brothers, who live abroad, are coming for dinner on Christmas Day. (Non-defining/subject

clause)

4.- The knife (that) you need to cut the bread with is in a drawer in the kitchen. (Defining/Object clause)

5.- Sally, whose dog died last month, is going through a serious depression. (Non-defining/possessive

clause)

6.- The Internet, which is surfed by most people, can be addictive sometimes. (Non-defining/subject

clause)

7.- The hotel where we stayed last summer was quite close to the beach. (Defining/place clause)

8.- We visited the British Museum, where you can see a lot of Egyptian remains. (Non-defining/place

clause)

9.- She introduced me to her boyfriend, who is a famous football player. (Non-defining/subject clause)

10.- Mrs. Brown is looking for a woman who can help her with her housework. (Defining/Subject clause)

11.- The people whose house was destroyed by the fire lost all their belongings. (Defining/possessive

clause)

12.- Is there an empty cupboard where I can put my clothes. (Defining/Place clause)

13.- Harry Parker, whom the jury sentenced to ten years, didn’t look too worried about his future life in

prison. (Non-defining/object clause)

14.- The student whose names are on that list have to do the exam again. (Defining/possessive clause)

15.- The Party Time Restaurant, where you can find the biggest burgers, offers special discounts at

weekends. (Non-defining/Place clause)

16.- She was brought by a widow aunt who husband had died shortly after getting married.

(Defining/possessive clause)

17.- Nobody found the cave where the treasure was hidden. (Defining/place clause)

18.- Susan, whose children are on holiday, doesn’t know what to do with them at Christmas. (Non-

defining/Possessive clause)

19.- The little boy who broke the living-room window didn’t even apologise. (Defining/Subject clause)

20.- Brian, who all the students admire, is very popular at High School. (Non-defining/Object clause)

### EXERCISE C (EXAMPLES)

1. + DEFINING … (that) she has just bought
2. + DEFINING …that didn’t fit her very well
3. +DEFINING … where we met after school.
4. + NON-DEFINING … , who I wanted to complain to.
5. + DEFINING … who was talking to my father.
6. + DEFINING … which/that are not suitable for their age.
7. + BOTH .. which/that are on that shelf … , which are dangerous for children.
8. + NON-DEFINING …,where you can travel by *gondola.*
9. + DEFINING … (that) I can do to help?
10. + NON-DEFINING … , who is the best practitioner in the area.
11. + DEFINING … (that) I gave her for her birthday.
12. + NON-DEFINING … , who used to be my best friend at school.
13. + DEFINING … where you sleep?
14. + DEFINING … who robbed the bank last week.
15. + NON-DEFINING … , who/whom we hadn’t met before.
16. + NON-DEFINING …, where the party was held.
17. + DEFINING … (THAT) he took during his holiday is Greece.
18. + NON-DEFINING … , which has turned out to be part of our lives.