

# Relative pronouns rules pdf

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We use a relative pronoun in English to describe a name or give us more information about it. This description is called a relative proposal, and therefore begins with a relative pronoun. This description comes after the name.

- The woman **who** phoned me last night is my girlfriend. (Noun: 'The woman'. Relative pronoun: 'Who'. Relative proposition: 'phoned me last night')
- The man **who** fixed your computer is waiting outside. (Noun: 'the man'. The relative pronoun is 'who'. The relative proposition is 'fixed your computer')
- I saw the cat **which** ate the food. (Noun: 'the cat'. Relative pronoun: 'Which'.)
- Paul, **who** owns a video game store, is waiting for you. (Noun: Paul. The relative proposal gives us more information about him: 'owns a video game store')

There are five relative pronouns in English:

1. **who**
2. **whom**
3. **whose**
4. **which**
5. **that**

**Who** (subject) and **whom** (object) => generally used for people.

**Whose** => for possession.

**Which** => for things.

**That** => used for both things and people.

## Use of relative pronouns:

After a name, to specify what thing or person we are talking about:

- The house **that** Sam built is big.
- The woman **who** discovered radium is a scientist.
- The thirty-year-old man **who** attempted to rob a bank was arrested.

To give more information about a thing or a person:

- My dad, **who** worked in a restaurant, has always been a great cook.
- Tina, **who** is 25, has just started a new job.
- We had pizza, **which** is my favourite meal.

Be careful, we don't use 'that' as a subject in this kind of sentence. WHOSE' is used as the possessive form of WHO:

- This is Paul, **whose** sister went to university with me.

We sometimes use *whom* as the object of the verb or proposal:

- This is Kevin, **whom** you met at the party last year.
- This is Paul's sister, with **whom** I went to university.

But nowadays, we use more *who* instead of *whom*:

- This is Kevin, **who** you met at the party last year.
- This is Paul's sister, **who** I went to university with.

When whom and which have a preposition (from, with...), it can be at the beginning of the relative proposal:

- I have an aunt in England, from **who(m)** I inherited a bit of money.
- We bought a washing machine, with **which** we washed all the laundry.

... or at the end of the proposal:

- I have an aunt in England **who(m)** I inherited a bit of money from.
- We bought a washing machine, **which** we washed all the laundry with.

That can also be used at the beginning of the proposal:

- I had an uncle in England **that** I inherited a bit of money from.
- We bought a washing machine **that** we washed all the laundry with.

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