Relative Clauses
Explanation and Rules

Relative Clauses help us to combine two sentences. It also gives us some extra information about the sentence's subject or object. They are basically adjective in a sentence form.

We can use “that”, “which”, “who”, “where” and “whose” to combine two sentences.

- which/that – for things or animals
- who/that – for people
- where – for places
- whose – for possessive

Defining Relative Clause

Defining Relative Clause gives us essential information about the noun. We can use that, which, who, where or whose depending on the noun. Relative Clause can define both the subject or the object.

If the relative pronoun is the subject:

- I know the woman. She is wearing a black hat.
  I know the woman who/that is wearing a black hat.

- She is one of my friends. She works at Apple.
  She is one of my friends who/that works at Apple.

- The money belonged to me. It was on the table.
  The money which/that was on the table belonged to me.

- These headphones are great. They are white.
  These headphones which/that are white are great.

As you can see, relative clause can be made after both the object or the subject of the sentences.

It depends on what you want to say.
If the relative pronoun is the object:

- She loves the chocolate. I bought the chocolate.
  She loves the chocolate *(which/that)* I bought.

- I broke the chair. My grandma gave it to me.
  I broke the chair *(which/that)* my grandma gave me.

- I watched a great movie. She recommended it.
  I watched a great movie *(which/that)* she recommended.

- The woman was talking loudly. I warned her.
  The woman *(who/that)* I warned was talking loudly.

Non-defining Relative Clause

Non-defining relative clauses give some extra information about the subject or the object. Don't forget that we cannot use "that" with non-defining relative clauses.

- My brother, *(who)* is actually a teacher, works as a waiter at a restaurant.
- Our dog, *(which)* is a golden rottweiler, can run really fast.
- The World War II happened in 1940s, *(which)* was really sad for the era’s generation.
- Freud, *(who)* is the father of psychoanalysis, was also a father of 7 kids.

Using “whose” with Relative Clauses

As we mentioned before, whose is used for possessive and it is always the subject of the relative clause.

- I know John. His father is really rich.
  I know John *(whose)* father is really rich.

- Emily works here. Her husband is an engineer.
  Emily *(whose)* husband is an engineer works here.
Using “where” with Relative Clauses

We use “where” if we talk about a place in relative clauses.

• I have my lunch at the restaurant. I work at the restaurant.
  
  I have my lunch at the restaurant where I work.
  I have my lunch at the restaurant which / that I work at.
  I have my lunch at the restaurant at which I work.

• I live in London. I also work in London.
  
  I live in London where I also work.
  I live in London which / that I also work in.
  I live in London in which I work.

Relative Clauses and Prepositions

When the verb has a preposition, we write the preposition at the end of the relative clause.

• Apple has announced a new phone. I’ve been waiting for it.
  Apple has announced a new phone which / that I’ve been waiting for.

• Metallica is a great band. I listen to it everyday.
  Metallica is a great band which / that I listen to everyday.