

Relative clauses

What is a relative clause?

3

Relative clauses

A **relative clause** adds extra information to the sentence.

The boy, **who speaks five languages**, went to school.


We use **that, who, what, where, which** or **why** to add the extra information. Two sentences can become one.

I bought a new bike. It was very shiny.

I bought a new bike **that** was very shiny.

Some relative clauses are non-essential. This means that they give us information that we don't necessarily need.

Lucas, **who served the soup**, didn't notice the banana skin on the floor.



Now have a go at these activities:

Activity 1

Underline the relative clause in each sentence. One has been done for you.


Julie, who lives in Australia, is coming to visit this summer.

- a) Any child who has forgotten their dinner money should go to the school office.
- b) Ahmed is visiting Johannesburg, which is in South Africa.
- c) I sent a letter that arrived two weeks later.
- d) Rio, who found the necklace, handed it in.
- e) The kite, which was broken, blew away.

Activity 2

Add a relative clause to these sentences, using **where, who, whose** or **which**.

- a) My teacher told me to try my best.
- b) The boy ran down the street.
- c) I saw the dog.
- d) "Don't cry," said the girl.
- e) The athlete won the race.
- f) She lived in a small house.



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Activity 3

Complete the table to show whether each clause is essential or non-essential. Put a tick in the correct box for each sentence.

	Essential relative clause	Non-essential relative clause
His car, <u>which was very old</u> , broke down.		
People <u>who eat too much</u> tend to have poor health.		
The bike <u>that came last</u> had a flat tyre.		
The coat, <u>which was very old</u> , had holes in the sleeves.		

Activity 4

Circle the relative clauses in the sentences below.

- a) My new kittens, who are called Spike and Spotty, sometimes climb up the wall.
- b) Jamie won a trophy, which was a large gold cup, at his football competition.
- c) My best friend, who lives in Wales, is great fun to play with.
- d) The green car that was left outside the restaurant belongs to Martin.