



A Read the sentences and decide which statement, *a* or *b*, describes the defining relative clause and which describes the non-defining relative clause. Note that where there is a comma (,) in writing there is a pause in speech.

Defining relative clauses

Non-defining relative clauses

Example:

Lambs *that are born early* are given special care. a

Lambs, *which are young sheep*, are usually born in spring. b

The relative clause tells you:	a) which particular group of lambs she is talking about. b) more about lambs in general, ie what lambs are.
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1 Now I'm going to swallow the sword *that my assistant, Julia, is holding*. _____

2 Now I'm going to swallow the sword, *which my assistant, Julia, is holding*. _____

The relative clause tells you:	a) more about the situation, ie where the sword is. b) which sword he is talking about.
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3 Miners *who work underground all their lives* usually have health problems. _____

4 Miners, *who work underground*, usually have health problems. _____

The relative clause tells you:	a) which group of miners have health problems. b) more about miners in general; ie why they have health problems.
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5 The London *I knew 20 years ago* has gone forever. _____

6 London, *which I knew 20 years ago*, has changed forever. _____

The relative clause tells you:	a) more about the situation, ie she used to know London. b) which particular London she means, ie the one she knew 20 years ago.
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B Complete these sentences by writing *defining* or *non-defining* in each space.

- 1 You use a _____ relative clause to tell your listener which one, or which particular group, you are talking about.
- 2 You use a _____ relative clause to add extra information to your sentence; it does not usually help to identify which one/group you are talking about.
- 3 You do not use a comma in writing, or pause in speech, before a _____ relative clause.
- 4 You do use a comma, or pause in speech, before a _____ relative clause.
- 5 You can use *that* in a _____ relative clause.
- 6 You cannot use *that* in a _____ relative clause.
- 7 You can omit *who*, *which* and *that* if it is the object of a _____ relative clause.
- 8 You cannot omit *who*, *which* or *that* in a _____ relative clause.

Relative clauses 2

defining and non-defining relative clauses

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Peter Wright had a strange experience last year and wrote it down. Now he wants to add some more information to it. Add the extra information using relative clauses with *which*, *who*, *where* and *when*.

1 I was born and brought up there.

I went back to Fordham Green, where I was born and brought up, _____ with an old friend called Melanie Dyson. We stopped at the church _____ because I wanted to walk down the road to the house _____.

1 It's the first building in the village.

2 I had spent my childhood there.

This was the first time I had been back since 1979 _____.

2 I had spent my childhood there.

3 This is when my father died.

I was feeling very emotional _____ so I wasn't too surprised to see the figure of old Hilda Greenway sitting on a chair outside her old cottage. I stopped and said hello. She said hello, and then she just started telling me that my father didn't like the new motorway _____ and _____.

4 This wasn't surprising in the circumstances.

5 The council was building it past the village.

_____ . I didn't know anything about it of course, and I just didn't think about the fact that she was still alive although she must have been at least a hundred years old, if not more.

6 It was going to go through his favourite wood.

Well, anyway, just then Melanie _____ came up and asked me what I was doing. I turned towards her and said, 'Let me introduce you to Hilda,' and turned back again, but there was no one there. Hilda had disappeared.

7 She had parked the car and walked back.

8 I trust her completely.

I didn't know what to think. I described what had happened and what Hilda had said; and then how old she must have been _____ . Melanie _____ didn't tell me I was mad; instead she took me to the doctor's house _____ and I repeated everything I had seen and heard.

8 This is when I realised how crazy the whole thing was.

9 I trust her completely.

Apparently Hilda had died twenty years before, at the age of eighty, but they really were building a motorway going past the village _____ so I believe I really did speak to the spirit of Hilda Greenway _____.

11 It really would go through my father's favourite wood.

10 She had passed it on her way down.

12 This is why I am opposing the plan to build it.

