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# Joining Sentences with Pronouns



- Pronouns are words that replace nouns
- Join sentences with pronouns that make one clause dependent on another
- Join sentences by making one clause function as a noun
- Join sentences by making a clause into a phrase



*I talked to the counsellor. She was very helpful.*

These two sentences can be linked by means of a relative pronoun (who)

*I talked to the counsellor **who** was very helpful.*

We call **who** relative pronoun because it relates the information **was very helpful** to a noun **counsellor**



Our car needs to be replaced. It is ten years old.

These two sentences are linked by replacing *it* with a relative pronoun *which*.


Our car, *which is ten years old*, needs to be replaced.



*I bought three chairs. **They** look beautiful in my living room.*

Join the above two sentences by changing **they** to **that**.

*I bought three chairs **that** look beautiful in my living room.*



Clauses beginning with the relative pronouns *who*, *which*, or *that* are therefore called *relative clauses*.

They are *dependent clauses* because they cannot stand alone as sentences. And they function like adjectives because they describe nouns or pronouns.

- *Who* describes people (and sometimes animals)
- *Which* describes things
- *That* describes either people or things

# Placement of Relative Clauses

- Relative clauses usually follow the noun or pronoun they describe.
- Bill bought a car for his daughter *that* cost a fortune. (which one cost a fortune – the daughter or the car?)
- Bill bought his daughter a car *that* cost a fortune


# Practice


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Change one sentence into a relative clause by adding a relative pronoun *who, which or that*

- Throughout France in the early sixteenth century, New Year's Day was celebrated on march 25. It began the spring season.
- Throughout France in the early sixteenth century, New Year's Day was celebrated on march 25, *which began the spring season.*



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- People would celebrate for a week by exchanging gifts at parties and dinner. These ended on April 1.
  - People would celebrate for a week by exchanging gifts at parties and dinner *which* ended on April 1.

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- For many of the French, gift-giving and parties continued to occur on April 1. They resisted the change.
  - For many of the French, *who* resisted the change, gift-giving and parties continued to occur on April 1.

# Commas with Relative Clauses

- The way we punctuate relative clauses can determine the meaning of a sentence.

## Restrictive Clauses

You can't start a car *that has a dead battery*.

If the second part is removed, the meaning is not the same (You can't start a car . . .)

The sentence restricts the meaning of a car to the one with a dead battery – not any other car. The pronoun *that* always begins a restrictive clause. The information in the original sentence should not be separated by commas as they are essential. Commas separate ideas.

**Don't put commas around restrictive clauses!**

## □ Nonrestrictive clauses

Many relative clauses are not essential to meaning. Remove the relative clause from the following sentence, and see if the remaining idea is unclear.


- My new car, *which I bought in October*, started every day in the coldest weather.
- My new car . . . started every day in the coldest weather.

The information in the relative clause is extra. It is the type of information that you would put in parenthesis. We put commas around such clauses.

Pronouns who and which often begin such clauses. They can begin restrictive clauses too. We have to test the meaning of the sentence by removing the clauses to see if the relative clause is restrictive or nonrestrictive

# Practice

- Underline the relative clause and put commas around it if needed
- “God bless you” is an expression that people everywhere say after someone sneezes.
- “God bless you” is an expression that people everywhere say after someone sneezes.

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- The practice of blessing someone which began in Greece in the fourth century B.C. can be traced to the philosophers Aristotle and Hippocrates.
  - The practice of blessing someone, which began in Greece in the fourth century B.C., can be traced to the philosophers Aristotle and Hippocrates.

# Relative Pronouns as Subjects

- The relative pronouns *who*, *which*, and *that* can serve as subjects of their clauses:
- Dr. Dunn is the professor *who* teaches modern languages.
- Our car, *which* is ten years old, needs to be replaced.
- You have to take a course *that* fulfills the natural science requirement.

# Practice

- Complete each of the following sentences. Some are missing only verbs; some are missing subjects and verbs. Insert commas where necessary.
- The accomplishment that I most want to achieve in the next few years.....
- The accomplishment that I most want to achieve in the next few years is to finish my college education and get a good job.





- People who do not eat meat .....
- .....who live in New York.....


# Relative pronouns as Objects

- Please give this form to the man. You will see *him* at the front desk.
- You must fill out several forms. You can get *them* from the receptionist.
- This is a form. You need to write your name and address on *it*.


Whom relates to people

That relates to people, things, or ideas

Which relates to things or ideas, and is used most often when it follows a preposition.

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- Please give this form to the man **whom** you see at the front desk.
  - You must fill out several forms **that** you can get from the receptionist.
  - This is a form on **which** you need to write your name and address

You should not repeat the object the second time.

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- You can omit the object pronoun in many sentences, except when it follows a preposition.
  - Please give this form to the man (whom) you see at the front desk.
  - You must fill out several forms (that) you can get from the receptionist.
  - This is the form *on which* you need to write your name and address.

# Combining Sentences with Object pronoun


- Each pair of sentences below, the second sentence contains an object pronoun. Combine each pair, making the second sentence a relative clause while omitting the object pronoun (and the relative pronoun if the combined sentence is clear without it).


# The Origin of Thanksgiving Day



1. Most people in the United States know the story of Thanksgiving. They celebrate it on the fourth Thursday of November.

Most people in the United States know the story of Thanksgiving, which they celebrate on the Fourth Thursday of November.

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- A ship called the *Mayflower* left Holland in 1620, carrying 102 people. People called them pilgrims.
  - A ship called *Mayflower* left Holland in 1620, carrying 102 people whom people called pilgrims.

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- On December 11, 1620, after four months at sea, it landed at a place. We now call it Plymouth, Massachusetts.
  - On December 11, 1620, after four months at sea, it landed at a place which we now call Plymouth, Massachusetts.



# Relative Clauses with Whose




- You're the man. Your car is parked on my lawn.

You're the man whose car is parked on my lawn.

Those are the chairs. Their legs are broken.

Those are the chairs whose legs are broken.

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- Pardon me, but are you the student? Your books are lost?
  - Pardon me, but are you the student whose books are lost.



Thank you