



## THE SEMANTIC FIELD OF RELATIVE PRONOUNS IN ENGLISH SENTENCE

### СЕМАНТИЧЕСКИЕ ПОЛЕ ОТНОСИТЕЛЬНЫХ МЕСТОИМЕНИЙ В АНГЛИЙСКОМ ПРЕДЛОЖЕНИИ

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**Annotation.** *In this article, we will discuss about the semantic field of relative pronouns in english sentence and using them in grammar of English language.*

**Аннотация.** *В этой статье мы обсудим семантическое поле относительных местоимений в английском предложении и их использование в грамматике английского языка.*

**Keywords.** *Relative pronouns, relative clauses, defining and non-defining, subject and object, preposition, where, what, that, which, why, who, whom, whose.*

**Ключевые Слова.** *Относительные местоимения, придаточные предложения, определяющие и неопределяющие, подлежащее и дополнение, предлог, где, что, какой, почему, кто, кого, чей.*

#### The Semantic Field of Relative Pronouns in English Sentences

Relative pronouns in English play a crucial role in creating complex sentences by linking clauses together and adding additional information about nouns. They encompass several key meanings and functions:

##### 1. Identification of People

- Who: Used to refer specifically to people.

- Example: "The artist who painted this mural is famous."

(Here, "who" identifies the noun "artist.")

##### 2. Identification of Things

- That: Can refer to people, objects, or ideas, often used for defining clauses.

- Example: "The movie that we watched was thrilling."

(In this case, "that" specifies which movie is being talked about.)

##### 3. Additional Information on Objects

- Which: Typically used for animals and objects to provide more information.

- Example: "The book, which is on the table, is mine."

(The clause provides non-defining additional information about "book.")



#### 4. Indicating Possession

- Whose: Indicates possession, relating one noun to another.

- Example: "The man whose car was stolen reported it to the police."

(Here, "whose" shows the relationship of possession between "man" and "car.")

#### 5. General reference

- That vs. Which: The choice between "that" and "which" can change the specificity of the information being provided, where "that" is used for essential clauses and "which" for non-essential ones.

- Example: "The car that won the race is red." (Essential for identification)

- Example: "The car, which was red, won the race". (Additional info, non-essential)

Relative pronouns introduce relative clauses. The most common relative pronouns are who, whom, whose, which, that. The relative pronoun we use depends on what we are referring to and the type of relative clause.

Who	People and sometimes pet animals	Defining and non-defining
Which	Animals and things	Defining and non-defining; clause referring to a whole sentence
That	People, animals and things; informal	Defining only
Whose	Possessive meaning; For people and animals usually; sometimes for things in formal situations	Defining and non-defining
Whom	People in formal styles or in writing; often with a preposition; rarely in conversation; used instead of <i>who</i> if <i>who</i> is the object	Defining and non-defining
No relative pronoun	When the relative pronoun defines the object of the clause	Defining only



## Relative pronouns

*Grammar > Nouns, pronouns and determiners > Pronouns > Relative pronouns*

From English Grammar Today

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(In the examples, the relative pronoun is in brackets to show where it is not essential; the person or thing being referred to is underlined.)

We don't know the person **who** donated this money.

We drove past my old school, **which** is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year.

He went to the school (**that**) my father went to.



The Kingfisher group, **whose** name was changed from Woolworths earlier this year, includes about 720 high street shops. Superdrug, **which** last week announced that it is buying Medicare, is also part of the group.

The parents (**whom/who/that**) we interviewed were all involved in education in some way.

**See also:**

- Relative clauses: defining and non-defining
- Relative clauses referring to a whole sentence

**Relative pronouns: who**

We use *who* in relative clauses to refer to people, and sometimes to pet animals. We use it to introduce defining and non-defining relative clauses:

*I think there'd be a lot of children **who'd** love to have a climbing wall in school.* (defining)

*That's the dog **who** doesn't like me.* (defining; referring to a pet animal)

*There's this guy at work, **who's** one of my friends, well he's never been on a train.* (non-defining)

Subjects and objects

*Who* can act as the subject or the object of the relative clause:

*She's going out with a bloke **who's** in the army.* (*who* refers to a *bloke* and is the subject of *is* in the relative clause; *bloke* is an informal word for a man)

*The woman **who** I saw yesterday was Sheila.* (*who* refers to *the woman* and is the object of *saw* in the relative clause)

*Who* + prepositions

We can use *who* as the complement of a preposition:

*It was Cath **who** Ian gave the keys to. It wasn't me.* (*who* refers to *Cath* and is the complement of the preposition *to*)

We put the preposition at the end of the relative clause, and not immediately before *who*:

*Of all my friends, she's the one **who** I know I can rely on.*

Not: ... the one on who I know I can rely.

*Who* with collective groups of people

We often use *who* with collective human nouns

(e.g. *Committee, government, group, panel, police, team*):

*Nicola phoned the fire brigade, **who** then alerted the police and social workers.*

We do not use *who* for things:

*There are some very good art books **which** you can get ideas from.*

Not: ~~There are some very good art books who you can get ideas from.~~



### Whom + prepositions

The most common use of *whom* is with a preposition. We can use *whom* as the complement of a preposition:

*The first book was a terrible historical novel for children which was turned down by every publisher **to whom** it was sent. (whom refers to every publisher and is the complement of the preposition to)*

*Drama in schools is particularly good for pupils **for whom** English is a second language.*

We put the preposition before *whom*.

### Compare

More formal	Less formal
<i>There was only one person <b>to whom</b> the old man spoke.</i>	<i>There was only one person <b>who</b> the old man spoke <b>to</b>.</i>
<i>She smiled as she remembered the quiet scholar <b>with whom</b> she had shared a love of books.</i>	<i>She smiled as she remembered the quiet scholar <b>who</b> she had shared a love of books <b>with</b>.</i>

### See also:

- Relative pronouns: who

### Relative pronoun: whose

We usually use *whose* as a relative pronoun to indicate possession by people and animals. In more formal styles we can also use it for things.

We use *whose* before nouns instead of a possessive expression (*my, your, his, her, its, our, their, x's*) in defining and non-defining clauses:

*He's marrying a girl **whose** family don't seem to like him. (The family of the girl he's marrying don't seem to like him.)*

*There was me and there was Kate, **whose** party it was, and then there were two other people. (It was Kate's party.)*

*It is a rambling Tudor house, **whose** sitting room looks out over a wonderful walled garden. (The sitting room of the house looks out over ...)*

### Whose + prepositions

We can use *whose* + noun as the complement of a preposition:

*Kate, **whose** sister I used to share a house with, has gone to work in Australia. (whose sister refers to Kate and is the complement of with)*



We can put the preposition immediately before the relative pronoun (more formal written styles) or at the end of the relative clause (more informal).

### Compare

More formal	More informal
<p><u>Thomas Goldney III</u>, <b>in whose</b> house and garden several generations of Bristol students have now lived, was described in the late 18th century as 'a very curious gentleman'.</p>	<p><u>Thomas Goldney III</u>, <b>whose</b> house and garden several generations of Bristol students have now lived <b>in</b>, was described in the late 18th century as 'a very curious gentleman'.</p>

### Relative pronouns: *which*

We use *which* in relative clauses to refer to animals and to things. We use it to introduce defining and non-defining relative clauses. We always use *which* to introduce relative clauses when they refer to a whole sentence or clause:

You need to tick the box **which** says yes. (defining)

He won't have much time to prepare for the meeting, **which** is this afternoon. (non-defining)

She had to get up and walk all the way to the other side of the room, **which** isn't easy with a bad back. (*which* refers to the whole sentence before it)

We use *which* or *that*, not *what*.

Another activity **which/that** I have chosen is photography.

Not: Another activity ~~what~~ I have chosen is photography.

Subjects and objects

*Which* can act as the subject or the object of the relative clause:

The new sports complex, **which** will be built on the site of the old power station, will provide facilities for cricket, soccer, bowls and badminton. (*which* refers to the new sports complex and is the subject of *will be built* in the relative clause)

It was the same picture **which** I saw at the National Gallery. (*which* refers to the same picture and is the object of *saw* in the relative clause)

*Which* + prepositions

We can use *which* as the complement of a preposition:

Early in the Autumn Term there is a reception **at which** you can meet current staff and students. (*which* refers to a reception and is the complement of *at*)



Close by, in the churchyard, is the famous Rudston stone, **from which** the village takes its name. (which refers to the famous Rudston stone and is the complement of from)

We can put the preposition immediately before the relative pronoun (more formal) or at the end of the relative clause (more informal).

### Compare

More formal	More informal
<i>The title of the poem indicates that the poet knows himself to be separated from <u>the community</u> <b>in which</b> he grew up.</i>	<i>I've never felt close to <u>the</u> <u>community</u> <b>which</b> I grew up <b>in</b>.</i>

*Which* referring to a whole sentence

Relative clauses referring to a whole sentence are always introduced by *which*:

There's going to be a new headteacher in September, **which** is good. It's time for a change.

[talking about a playschool for young children]

**A:**

*It's lovely and clean there, and there are lots of toys that he can play with and he's so happy.*

**B:**

**Which** is much more important.

### Relative pronouns: **that**

We use *that* instead of *who*, *whom* or *which* in relative clauses to refer to people, animals and things. We use it to introduce defining clauses only. *That* is more informal than *who*, *whom* or *which*:

*We met somebody last night **that** did the speech therapy course two years after you.* (refers to a person)

*The 8.30 is the train **that** you need to get.* (refers to a thing)

*She blamed herself for everything **that** had happened.*

Subjects and objects

*That* can act as the subject or the object of the relative clause:

*He finally remembers one lesson **that** his mum had taught him early – Don't take money **that** doesn't belong to you.* (*that* refers to *money* and is the subject of *belong* in the relative clause)



*It's the same cooker **that** my mother has.* (that refers to the same cooker and is the object of *has* in the relative clause)

*That* after superlatives

We often use *that* after superlatives:

*The Wimbledon men's final was the best game of tennis **that** i've ever seen.*

*That* + prepositions

*That* can refer to the complement of a preposition:

*We've got some tennis balls **that** you can play **with**.* (that refers to some tennis balls and is the complement of the preposition *with*)

### **Warning:**

Unlike *which*, *whom* and *whose*, we can't use *that* with the preposition immediately before it:

Not: ~~We've got some tennis balls with that you can play.~~

### **No relative pronoun**

In informal styles, we often leave out the relative pronoun. We only do this in defining relative clauses, and when the relative pronoun is the object of the verb. We don't leave out the relative pronoun when it is the subject of the verb nor in non-defining relative clauses:

*German is a language **which** i've found hard to learn.* (or *German is a language i've found hard to learn.*) (defining relative clause: *which* is the object)

*She's the singer **who** I heard on the radio.* (or *She's the singer I heard on the radio.*) (defining relative clause: *who* is the object)

*There's a hill **which** begins three miles after the start of the race.* (defining relative clause: *which* is the subject)

Not: ~~There's a hill begins three miles after the start of the race.~~

*Sir James, **whose** birthday is on February 26, plans to lay on a big party.* (non-defining relative clause)

No relative pronoun + preposition

In defining relative clauses, we can also leave out the relative pronoun when it is the complement of a preposition. When we do this, we always put the preposition at the end of the relative clause:


*She was at the garden party **which** I was telling you **about**.* (or *She was at the garden party **about** **which** I was telling you.* Or *She was at the garden party I was telling you **about**.) (defining relative clause: *which* is the complement of *about*)*

Conclusion

The semantic field of relative pronouns encompasses identification, specificity, and possession, allowing for nuanced and informative sentence structures. By







using relative pronouns, speakers can convey rich details and establish connections among ideas, adding depth to their expressions.

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