

Defining relative clauses

Defining relative clauses tell us which one of a group of things/people we are talking about. The sentence doesn't usually make complete sense without the relative clause.

Use	Example
To tell us which one of a group of things/people we are talking about	<i>The book which I've read was the best of all.</i> <i>The one who is wearing a blue shirt is Justin Timberlake, isn't it?</i>

Watch out!

- Defining relative clauses are not separated from the rest of the sentence by commas.
✓ *This is the DVD which I told you about the other day.*
- We can also use *that* to introduce the relative clause.
✓ *This is the DVD **that** I told you about the other day.*
- We can often leave out the word which introduces the relative clause when it is the object of the clause.
✓ *This is the DVD I told you about the other day.*
- Notice that we do not need a preposition when we use *where* or *when*.
✓ *The theatre **where** I first acted is somewhere around here.*
✗ *The theatre **where** I first acted **in** is somewhere around here.*
✓ *Do you know the year **when** the first western was made?*
✗ *Do you know the year **when** the first western was made **in**?*

Participles

Present participles end in *-ing*.

Past participles usually end in *-ed*, although there are many irregular verbs.

Perfect participles are formed using *having* + past participle.

Use	Example
To follow prepositions and conjunctions (present and perfect participles)	<i>By appearing in that cigarette advert, he damaged his acting career.</i> <i>After playing / having played video games all morning, I was really tired.</i>
To explain the reason for something (present and perfect participles)	<i>Being quite good looking, Ralph decided to make a career as a model.</i> <i>Having seen the film before, I knew what was going to happen.</i>
To talk about actions happening at the same time (present participles)	<i>Waiting for the show to begin, I felt really nervous.</i>
To replace some relative clauses (present and past participles)	<i>Imagine being the person directing a big budget film! (= Imagine being the person who is directing a big budget film!)</i> <i>The person chosen for the part will be contacted by phone. (= The person who is chosen for the part will be contacted by phone.)</i>
To talk about past actions happening in sequence (perfect participles)	<i>Having finished my homework, I decided to go to the cinema.</i>
As an alternative passive form (past participles)	<i>Made to wait, the actor began to get very annoyed.</i>

Watch out!

- You have to be careful that the participle and the rest of the sentence both refer to the same subject.
✓ *Watching TV, I saw a news report about Hollywood.*
✗ *Watching TV, a news report came on about Hollywood.*

F Choose the correct answer.

- 1 'Who's that over there?'
'Oh, it's our new teacher, just started work today.'
A that C which he
B who he D who
- 2 'Which CD did you get Marcus in the end?'
'I got him the one said he really wanted to hear.'
A that C which
B who he D which he
- 3 'Who did you send a Valentine's card to?'
'I'm not telling you, but it was someone name begins with "B".'
A which C whose
B who her D whose her
- 4 'Have you seen Jason Green's latest film?'
'Is that the one in joins the FBI?'
A which he C whom he
B that he D which
- 5 'Why do you like Tania so much?'
'Well, she's one of the few people to I can really talk.'
A which C that
B whom D who
- 6 'Why don't we go to Lionel's for dinner tonight?'
'Is that the new restaurant has just opened on the other side of town?'
A which C where
B that it D which it
- 7 'Could you lend me some money?'
'I'd like you to give me one good reason I should.'
A that C which
B why D who
- 8 'What do you want to do this summer?'
'I think we should go somewhere has plenty of sun and sand.'
A who C when
B where D that

G Circle the words in bold which are *not* necessary.

The number of options (1) **that** are available to us with (2) **which** to fill our leisure time is increasing all the time. While previous generations, (3) **who** lived before the electronic age, had musical instruments and card games (4) **that** they played to pass the time, we have PlayStations, computers, televisions and stereos. Although parents (5) **whose** teenagers spend a lot of time on these activities might worry about the effect (6) **which** it is having on them, for most of us they provide harmless fun, (7) **which** is becoming more important as life becomes more stressful. The television programmes (8) **which** we watch and the computer games (9) **that** we play all entertain us and, although there will always be people to (10) **whom** they seem a complete waste of time, the effect (11) **that** they have on society cannot be ignored. Entertainment is something (12) **which** we all need and, as long as we're willing to pay, there will always be someone (13) **who** is willing to provide it.

H Circle the correct word or phrase.

- 1 Before **meeting** / **met** Harriet, I never knew what real love was.
- 2 I'm sure that after **passing** / **passed** your exam, you'll feel a lot better.
- 3 Having **finishing** / **finished** the letter, Peter printed it out.
- 4 **Looking** / **Looked** through the window, I saw a strange man at the door.
- 5 I cooked dinner and, **doing** / **having done** that, I sat down to watch TV.
- 6 **Hearing** / **Heard** a noise outside, Janice went to investigate.
- 7 **Having lost** / **Losing** my notes, I couldn't revise properly for the test.
- 8 **Having been** / **Being** quite intelligent, Matt hopes to get into a good university.
- 9 **Having missed** / **Missing** the start of the film, I decided not to bother watching the rest of it.
- 10 After **making** / **made** her bed, Cherie had a shower.

I Complete the sentences so that the meaning remains the same.

- 1 I suddenly remembered where I'd left my keys when I was waiting for the bus.
Waiting
- 2 I slipped because I was trying to run in the rain.
Trying
- 3 I felt quite sorry for Tim when I saw him cry.
Seeing
- 4 John was depressed because he knew he was going to fail the exam.
Knowing
- 5 The reason I'm quite good at basketball is that I'm quite tall.
Being
- 6 Georgia didn't know any Japanese so she used a phrase book when she was there.
Not
- 7 Ed can afford three holidays abroad each year because he has a lot of money.
Having
- 8 Maria began to worry when she realised she was lost.
Realising

J Tick (✓) the correct sentences. If a sentence is incorrect, rewrite it correctly.

- 1 Looking through the window, a plane was passing overhead.
.....
- 2 Realising that it was late, I ran all the way home.
.....
- 3 Having examined me, I was given a prescription by the doctor.
.....
- 4 Turning on the television, the newsreader said there had been an explosion.
.....
- 5 Dropping the shopping bags on the kitchen floor, Mrs Moorcroft sighed and sat down heavily.
.....
- 6 Having practised the piano, I decided to call one of my friends.
.....

K If a line is correct, put a tick (✓) next to the number. If there is an extra word in a line, write it next to the number.

- 1 'Hello, viewers, and welcome to *Easy Money*, the game show who you
- 2 voted the best on TV! Now, remember yesterday when our current champion,
- 3 Pat Barber, having been won ten thousand euros, decided to carry on? Well,
- 4 she's here tonight and she's going for the star prize, which it is a brand new
- 5 sports car! That's right. Having got her this far, if Pat can answer three more
- 6 questions correctly, then she could be driving home in this car, ladies and
- 7 gentlemen. Having not seen the programme before, you will know just how
- 8 difficult which it can be. I know Pat's a little nervous, but I'm sure she'll be
- 9 fine and there's one person for whom tonight is very special and that's Pat's
- 10 husband, Frank, who he is sitting in the audience. So, let's play *Easy Money*!