

# 137 Relative clauses with who, which and that

## 1 Introduction

Emma: I saw Natalie the other day.  
 Melanie: Natalie? The girl **who plays the piano**?  
 Emma: No, that's Natasha. Natalie is the student **who dropped out of college, the one who never did any studying**. She's working in Davidson's now, the shop **that sells very expensive clothes**.



The relative clauses in this conversation identify which person or thing we are talking about. The clause **who plays the piano** tells us which girl Melanie means. The clause **that sells very expensive clothes** tells us which shop Emma means.

Sometimes we can use an adjective or a phrase to identify someone or something.

Adjective: the **tall** girl the **new** student the **red** car  
 Phrase: the man **in the suit** the shop **on the corner** the woman **with red hair**  
 But when we need a longer explanation, we can use a relative clause.  
 Relative clause: the woman **who gets up early** the car **that broke down**

## 2 Who, which and that

The relative pronouns **who**, **which** and **that** go after the noun and at the beginning of the relative clause.

**Who** refers to people.

Nick is the **man who** owns that enormous dog. I don't like **people who** tell jokes all the time.  
 The little **girl who** sat next to me on the coach ate sweets the whole way.  
 Sarah is pretty annoyed with the **person who** stole her mobile phone.

We can also use **that**, but it is less usual.

Jake is the **man that** plays the guitar.  
 The **woman that** lived here before us is a romantic novelist.

**That** and **which** refer to things. **That** is more usual than **which**, especially in conversation.

The **car that** won the race looked very futuristic, didn't it?  
 They've recaptured all the **animals that** escaped from the zoo.  
 The children saw the actual **spacecraft that** landed on the moon.

**Which** can be a little formal.

There are several **restaurants which** do Sunday lunches.  
 Is Zedco the **company which** was taken over last year?

We do not use another pronoun like **he** or **it** with the relative pronoun.

NOT ~~the man who he owns that enormous dog~~  
 NOT ~~the actual spacecraft that it landed on the moon~~

In all these sentences **who**, **which** and **that** are the subject of the relative clause.  
 For **who**, **which** and **that** as object, see Units 138 and 139.

## Practice

### A Identifying (1)

Look at the information and identify which one is meant.

Use the shortest way of identifying where possible, e.g. *the tall boy*, not *the boy who is tall*.

- ▶ the boy (he is tall) → *the tall boy*
- ▶ the man (he has a beard) → *the man with a beard*
- ▶ the woman (she plays golf) → *the woman who plays golf*
- 1 the young man (he is at the door) →
- 2 the man (he plays his stereo at night) →
- 3 the woman (she is very thin) →
- 4 the girl (she has green eyes) →
- 5 the young woman (she is in the office) →
- 6 the man (he drives a taxi) →
- 7 the young man (he is smart) →
- 8 the student (she failed all her exams) →

### B Who, which and that (2)

Complete the conversation. Put in **who**, **which** or **that**.

There is always more than one possible answer.

Emma: Shall we have something to eat?  
 Matthew: Yes, but not here. I don't like cafés (▶) **that** don't have chairs. I'm not one of those people (▶) **who** can eat standing up.  
 Emma: There's another restaurant over there.  
 Matthew: It looks expensive – one of those places (1) ..... charge very high prices. The only customers (2) ..... can afford to eat there are business executives (3) ..... get their expenses paid. Anyway, I can't see a menu. I'm not going into a restaurant (4) ..... doesn't display a menu.  
 Emma: We just passed a café (5) ..... does snacks.  
 Matthew: Oh, I didn't like the look of that.  
 Emma: You're one of those people (6) ..... are never satisfied, aren't you?

### C Relative clauses (1–2)

Combine the information to make news items. Make the sentence in brackets into a relative clause with **who** or **which**. Start each sentence with *the*, e.g. *The man ...*

- ▶ A man has gone to prison. (He shot two policemen.)  
*The man who shot two policemen has gone to prison.*
- 1 A bomb caused a lot of damage. (It went off this morning.)
- 2 A scientist has won the Nobel Prize. (He discovered a new planet.)
- 3 A footballer has been banned from playing again. (He took drugs.)
- 4 A little girl has been found safe and well. (She had been missing since Tuesday.)
- 5 A company has laid off thousands of workers. (It owns Greenway Supermarkets.)
- 6 An old lady now wants to swim the English Channel. (She did a parachute jump.)

# 138 The relative pronoun as object

## 1 Subject and object

Harriet is showing David her holiday photos.

Harriet: *That's an old castle **that we visited on holiday**. And those are some people **we met**, a couple **who were staying at the campsite**.*

David: *Mm. They look very friendly.*

A relative pronoun such as *who* or *that* can be the subject of a relative clause.

*Harriet talked to a couple **who were staying at the camp-site**.*

(*They were staying at the camp-site.*)

*The postcard **that came this morning** was from Harriet.*

(*It came this morning.*)

A relative pronoun can also be the object of a relative clause.

*Mike and Harriet are visiting a woman **who they met on holiday**.*

(*They met **her** on holiday.*)

*The old castle **that we visited** was really interesting.*

(*We visited **it**.*)

We do not use another pronoun like *her* or *it* with the relative pronoun.

NOT *a woman who they met her* NOT *the old castle that we visited it*

## 2 Leaving out the relative pronoun

We can leave out the relative pronoun when it is the object of the relative clause. We do this especially in spoken English. Compare these examples.

WITH OBJECT PRONOUN

*The man **who Vicky saw** at the concert is Sarah's boss.*

*That's an old castle **that we visited**.*

WITHOUT OBJECT PRONOUN

*The man **Vicky saw** at the concert is Sarah's boss.*

*That's an old castle **we visited**.*

Here are some more examples of relative clauses without an object pronoun.

*We don't know the name of the person **the police are questioning**.*

*The cakes **Melanie baked** were delicious.*

*That jacket **you're wearing** is falling to pieces, Mike.*

Remember that we cannot leave out a pronoun when it is the subject of a relative clause.

*The man **who spoke** to Vicky is Sarah's boss.*

## 3 Who and whom

In formal English, *whom* is sometimes used when the object of the relative clause is a person.

*The person **who/whom** the police were questioning has now been released.*

But in conversation *whom* is not very common.

## Practice

### A Subject and object (1)

Comment on the conversations. Add a sentence with *who* or *that* as the subject of the underlined part.

▶ She's Tom's new girlfriend. ~ Who is? ~ That girl. She just said hello.  
That's right. The girl who just said hello is Tom's new girlfriend.

1 The dog has been rescued. ~ What dog? ~ It fell down a hole.  
Haven't you heard? The .....

2 The story was untrue. ~ What story? ~ You know. It upset everyone.  
Yes, the .....

3 He's a film producer. ~ Who is? ~ That man. He interviewed Natasha.  
That's what I heard. The .....

Now comment on these conversations. Add a sentence with *who* or *that* as the object of the underlined part.

4 The accident wasn't very serious. ~ What accident? ~ Oh, Daniel saw it.  
Yes, the .....

5 He's a billionaire. ~ Who is? ~ That man. Claire knows him.  
It's true. The .....

6 The vase was extremely valuable. ~ What vase? ~ You know. David broke it.  
That's right. The .....

7 It's really nice. ~ What is? ~ The jacket. Melanie wore it at the party.  
Yes, it is. The .....

### B Leaving out the relative pronoun (2)

Complete the script for these TV advertisements. Use a relative clause without a pronoun.

▶ Fresho soap. Beautiful people use it. It's the soap beautiful people use.

1 An Everyman car. You can afford it. ....

2 'Hijack'. People want to see this film. ....

3 Greenway Supermarket. You can trust it. ....

4 'Cool' magazine. Young people read it. ....

5 Jupiter chocolates. You'll love them. ....

### C Leaving out the relative pronoun (2)

Look carefully at these sentences. Are they correct without a relative pronoun? Where you see ★, you may need to put in *who*, *which* or *that*. Write the sentences and put in a pronoun only if you have to.

▶ The man ★ paid for the meal was a friend of Tom's.  
The man who paid for the meal was a friend of Tom's.

▶ The meeting ★ Mark had to attend went on for three hours.  
The meeting Mark had to attend went on for three hours.

1 Somewhere I've got a photo of the mountain ★ we climbed.

2 The man ★ repaired my car is a real expert.

3 The detective lost sight of the man ★ he was following.

4 I thought I recognized the assistant ★ served us.

5 I'm afraid the numbers ★ I chose didn't win a prize.

# 139 Prepositions in relative clauses

## 1 Introduction

A relative pronoun (e.g. that) can be the object of a preposition (e.g. for).

This is the bus **that** I've been waiting for.  
 I've been waiting for **the bus**.  
 The restaurant **that** we normally go to is closed today.  
 We normally go to **the restaurant**.



In informal spoken English we normally put the preposition at the end of the relative clause. Compare the word order.

STATEMENT	RELATIVE CLAUSE
I've been waiting for the bus.	the bus that I've been waiting for
We go to the restaurant.	the restaurant that we go to

We do not use another pronoun like it or her after the preposition.  
 NOT *the restaurant that we go to it* NOT *someone who I work with her*

## 2 Leaving out the pronoun

We often leave out the relative pronoun when it is the object of a preposition.

WITH OBJECT PRONOUN	WITHOUT OBJECT PRONOUN
The bus <b>that</b> I'm waiting for is late.	The bus I'm waiting for is late.
Is this the article <b>which</b> you were interested in?	Is this the article you were interested in?
That's the man <b>who</b> I was talking about.	That's the man I was talking about.

Here are some more examples of relative clauses without an object pronoun.

I can't remember the name of the hotel **we stayed at**.  
 This is the colour **we've finally decided on**.  
 The shop **I got my stereo from** has lots of bargains.

## 3 A preposition at the beginning

These examples are typical of formal English.

Was that the restaurant **to which** you normally go?  
 Electronics is a subject **about which** I know very little.  
 The Sales Manager is the person **from whom** I obtained the figures.

Here the preposition comes at the beginning of the relative clause, before which or whom.

We cannot put a preposition before that or who.  
 a subject (that) I know little about NOT ~~a subject about that I know little~~  
 the person (who) I got the figures from NOT ~~the person from who I got the figures~~

▷ 138.3 Whom

# Practice

## A A preposition at the end (1-2)

What are they saying? Put in sentences with a preposition at the end.



- ▶ (Mark has been looking for this letter.) *This is the letter I've been looking for.*
- 1 (Rachel was talking about that film.) .....
- 2 (Laura has decided on this wallpaper.) .....
- 3 (Matthew played tennis with that man.) .....
- 4 (David fell down those steps.) .....

## B A preposition at the end (1-2)

Match the phrases and write the definitions. Put the preposition at the end of the relative clause.

- ▶ a kitchen                      a cupboard                      you hit nails with it
- 1 a hammer                      the person                      you keep valuable things in it
- 2 your destination              a piece of furniture              you cook in it
- 3 a safe                              the place                      you can either sit or sleep on it
- 4 your opponent                  a room                      you're going to it
- 5 a sofa bed                      a tool                      you're playing against them

▶ *A kitchen is a room you cook in.*

- 1 .....
- 2 .....
- 3 .....
- 4 .....
- 5 .....

## C A preposition at the beginning (3)

It's election time. All the politicians are arguing.

Rewrite the first sentence using a preposition at the beginning of a relative clause.

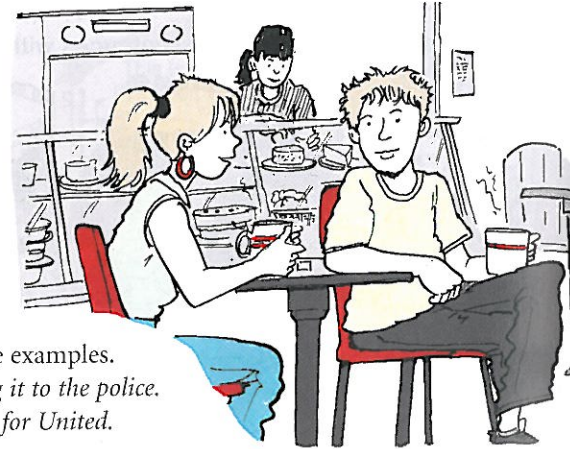
▶ I cannot agree with that statement. I hope I've made that clear.  
*That is a statement with which I cannot agree.*

- 1 Our party believes in that idea. I say this from the bottom of my heart. ....
- 2 I am strongly opposed to that policy. And I am not afraid to say so. ....
- 3 No one cares about these people. They are the forgotten people. ....
- 4 Your party should be ashamed of those mistakes. And everyone knows that. ....
- 5 The government is now dealing with that problem. How many times do I have to tell you? .....

# 140 Relative structures with whose, what and it

## 1 Whose

Vicky: *What I'd really like is a job in television.*  
 Daniel: *The other day I met a man **whose** sister works in television.*  
 Vicky: *Who? What's her name?*  
 Daniel: *Oh, I don't know. She's the woman **whose** car Tom crashed into.*



Here **whose** sister means his sister (the sister of the man Daniel met), and **whose** car means her car (the car belonging to the woman). Here are some more examples.  
*Someone **whose** bicycle had been stolen was reporting it to the police.*  
*Wayne Johnson is the man **whose** goal won the game for United.*

We use **whose** mainly with people, e.g. someone, the man. But sometimes it goes with other nouns.  
*Which is the European **country** **whose** economy is growing the fastest?*  
*Round the corner was a **building** **whose** windows were all broken.*  
*Melanie was looking after a **dog** **whose** leg had been broken in an accident.*

## 2 What

We use the relative pronoun **what** without a noun in front of it.  
*The shop didn't have **what** I wanted. (= the thing that I wanted)*  
***What** we saw gave us quite a shock. (= the thing that we saw)*

We can also use **what** to give emphasis to a word or phrase, to make it more important. Compare these examples.

### NEUTRAL

*Rachel's stereo kept me awake.*  
*Vicky is looking for a job in television.*  
*I want to make a fresh start.*  
*They booked a holiday together.*

### EMPHATIC

***What** kept me awake was Rachel's stereo.*  
***What** Vicky is looking for is a job in television.*  
***What** I want to do is make a fresh start.*  
***What** they did was book a holiday together.*

## 3 It

We also use **it + be + a** relative clause to give emphasis.

### NEUTRAL

*Tom had an accident.*  
*The computer gives me a headache.*  
*I'm eating chocolate cake.*  
*Mike's uncle died on Thursday.*

### EMPHATIC

***It was Tom** who had an accident (not David).*  
***It's the computer** that gives me a headache.*  
***It's chocolate cake** (that) I'm eating.*  
***It was on Thursday** that Mike's uncle died.*

We must put in a pronoun when it is the subject of the relative clause (e.g. **who** had an accident). If it is the object (e.g. **that** I'm eating), then we can leave it out (see Unit 138.2).

# Practice

## A Who or whose? (1)

You are reading a crime story. One of these people has murdered the industrialist Colin Howard. Look at the detective's notes and write a sentence about each person. Use a relative clause with **who** or **whose**.

- ▶ George Paxton, company director – he had an argument with Colin  
*George is the company director who had an argument with Colin.*
  - ▶ Vera Stokes, politician – her sister once worked for Colin  
*Vera is the politician whose sister once worked for Colin.*
- 1 Felix Reeves, journalist – his tape recorder was stolen
  - 2 Graham Wilshaw, architect – he knew Colin at school
  - 3 Rex Carter, farmer – Colin bought his land
  - 4 Norman Bridge, lawyer – he looked after Colin's interests
  - 5 Sonia Goldman, house guest – her fingerprints were on the door handle

## B What (2)

Zedco Chief Executive Barry Douglas is telling a group of managers how to run a business successfully. He emphasizes the underlined words using **what**.

- ▶ You must pay attention to the details.  
*What you must pay attention to are the details.*
- 1 You have to think about your profit.
  - 2 You must know the needs of your customers.
  - 3 You should work towards a realistic target.
  - 4 You need to plan ahead.

## C It (3)

Quiz champion Claude Jennings is answering some questions. Look at each question and answer and write a sentence with **it + be + a** relative clause.

- ▶ Who invented radio? ~ Marconi.  
*It was Marconi who invented radio.*
- 1 When did Columbus sail to America? ~ In 1492.  
*It was in 1492 that*
  - 2 What does Tiger Woods play? ~ Golf.  
*It's*
  - 3 Where did the Olympic Games first take place? ~ In Greece.
  - 4 Which is nearest the sun, Venus or Mercury? ~ Mercury.

# 141 The use of relative clauses

## 1 Introduction

There are two kinds of relative clause. Compare this conversation and newspaper report.

Laura: *Art Golding has died.*  
 Trevor: *Who?*  
 Laura: *You know. The film star who played the ship's captain in 'Iceberg'.*  
 Trevor: *I don't think I've seen that.*  
 Laura: *Yes, you have. It's the film we saw on TV the other night.*

### ART GOLDING DIES

The actor Art Golding, who starred in films such as 'Tornado' and 'Iceberg', has died after a long illness. He was seventy-eight. Art Golding's most famous role was as the scientist in the film 'Supernova', which broke all box-office records.

The clauses in this conversation identify which film star and which film Laura means. They are called identifying clauses.

The clauses in this report add information about Art Golding and about 'Supernova'. They are called adding clauses, or sometimes non-identifying clauses.

## 2 Identifying clauses and adding clauses

### IDENTIFYING

*The man who lives next door to Melanie is rather strange.*  
*The river which flows through Hereford is the Wye.*  
*The picture which was damaged is worth thousands of pounds.*

These clauses identify which thing the speaker is talking about. The clause **who lives next door to Melanie** tells us which man. The clause **which flows through Hereford** tells us which river. Without the relative clause the sentence would be incomplete. **The man is rather strange** makes sense only if we know which man.

An identifying clause does not have commas around it.

Most relative clauses are identifying. We use them both in speech and in writing.

### ADDING

*Jake, who lives next door to Melanie, is rather strange.*  
*The Wye (which flows through Hereford) is a beautiful river.*  
*This famous picture – which was damaged during the war – is worth thousands of pounds.*

These clauses add extra information about something which is already identified. The clause **who lives next door to Melanie** adds information about Jake. But we can say the sentence on its own without the relative clause. **Jake is rather strange** makes sense because the name **Jake** identifies who we are talking about.

An adding clause has commas around it. Instead of commas, we can use brackets ( ) or dashes – –. If the adding clause is at the end of the sentence, we need only one comma or dash.

*That's Jake, who lives next door.*

Adding clauses can be rather formal. We use them mainly in writing. They are common in news reports. In speech we often use two short sentences. *Jake lives next door to Melanie. He's rather strange.*

▷ 137.1 Identifying clauses ▷ 142.1 Pronouns in identifying and adding clauses

## Practice

### A Adding clauses (1)

Match the parts and write sentences with an adding clause. Use *who* or *which*.

- |                    |                                 |  |
|--------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| ▶ The Grand Canyon | He was in prison for 27 years.  | He was one of the Beatles.             |
| 1 Nelson Mandela   | He was killed in 1980.          | He became President of South Africa.   |
| 2 John Lennon      | It is 140 million miles away.   | It is one of the wonders of the world. |
| 3 The Titanic      | It is over 200 miles long.      | It is known as the red planet.         |
| 4 Queen Victoria   | It sank in 1912.                | It stood for 28 years.                 |
| 5 Mars             | It was built in 1961.           | It was supposed to be unsinkable.      |
| 6 The Berlin Wall  | She came to the throne in 1837. | She ruled over the British Empire.     |

▶ *The Grand Canyon, which is over 200 miles long, is one of the wonders of the world.*

- 1 .....
- 2 .....
- 3 .....
- 4 .....
- 5 .....
- 6 .....

### B Identifying or adding? (2)

Read the news article and then say what each relative clause does. Does it tell us which one, or does it add information?

The play (▶) that the students put on last week was Oscar Wilde's 'The Importance of Being Earnest', (▶) which was written in 1895. The college theatre, (1) which holds over 400 people, was unfortunately only half full for the Friday evening performance. However, the people (2) who bothered to attend must have been glad they did. Lucy Kellett, (3) who played Lady Bracknell, was magnificent. Unfortunately the young man (4) who played John Worthing forgot his lines twice, but that did not spoil the evening, (5) which was a great success.

- ▶ *It tells us which play.*  
 ▶ *It adds information about 'The Importance of Being Earnest'.*

- 1 .....
- 2 .....
- 3 .....
- 4 .....
- 5 .....

### C Commas in relative clauses (2)

Put in the relative clauses. You may also need to put in one or two commas.

- ▶ (that Claire drives) This car is a lot cheaper than the one that Claire drives.  
 ▶ (who has twins) Olivia, who has twins, often needs a babysitter.  
 1 (who took Rita to the party) The person ..... was Tom.  
 2 (who has a bad temper) Henry ..... shouted at the waiter.  
 3 (which Tom supports) The team ..... is United.  
 4 (who is afraid of heights) We all climbed up except Vicky .....  
 5 (which is on the tenth floor) My new flat ..... has a terrific view.  
 6 (she bought the sofa from) Sarah can't remember the name of the shop .....

# 142 Relative pronouns and relative adverbs

## 1 Pronouns in identifying and adding clauses

There are two kinds of relative clause: identifying and adding (see Unit 141). Look at the pronouns in these examples.

### IDENTIFYING

*I'm sure I know the person **who** served us.*  
*The pop singer **whom** Guy invited onto his chat show never turned up.*  
*The woman **whose** flat was burgled spent the night at a friend's house.*  
*Towns **which/that** attract tourists are usually crowded in the summer.*

In an identifying clause we can use **who**, **whom**, **whose**, **which** or **that**.

### ADDING

*Natalie, **who** served us, is a friend of Emma's.*  
*Arlene Black, **whom** Guy invited onto his chat show, never turned up.*  
*Natasha, **whose** flat was burgled, spent the night at a friend's house.*  
*Oxford, **which** attracts many tourists, is often crowded in the summer.*

In an adding clause we can use **who**, **whom**, **whose** or **which**. We do NOT use **that**.

## 2 Leaving out the pronoun

Sometimes we can leave the pronoun out of an identifying clause (see Unit 138.2).

*The woman (**who**) you met yesterday works in advertising.*  
*Have you seen the book (**that**) I was reading?*  
*Laura couldn't find the box (**that**) she kept her photos in.*

We cannot leave the pronoun out of an adding clause.

*Sarah, **whom** you met yesterday, works in advertising.*  
*That book 'Brighton Rock', **which** I was reading, is really good.*  
*Laura had a wooden box, **in which** she kept her photos OR **which** she kept her photos **in**.*

## 3 The relative adverbs where, when and why

Look at these examples.

*This is the place **where** the accident happened.*  
*Do you remember the day **when** we moved the piano upstairs?*  
*The reason **why** Nick came was that he wanted to see Rita.*

We can leave out **when** or **why**, or we can use **that**.

*Do you remember the day (**that**) we moved the piano upstairs?*  
*The reason (**that**) Nick came was that he wanted to see Rita.*

There are also adding clauses with **where** and **when**.

*We went to the Riverside Restaurant, **where** I once had lunch with Henry.*  
*Mark likes to travel at night, **when** the roads are quiet.*

## 4 A special use of which

In an adding clause, we can use **which** relating to a whole sentence, not just to a noun.

*It rained all night, **which** was good for the garden.*  
 Here **which** means 'the fact that it rained all night'.

Here are some more examples.

*David helped me clear up, **which** was very kind of him.*  
*Sarah had to work late again, **which** annoyed Mark.*  
*Tom pushed Nick into the swimming-pool, **which** seemed to amuse everyone.*

# Practice

## A Who, whom, whose, which, where and why (1, 3)

Complete this advertisement. Put in **who**, **whom**, **whose**, **which**, **where** or **why**.

The town of Keswick, (▶) **which** lies at the heart of the Lake District, is the perfect place for a holiday, and the Derwent Hotel, (1) ..... overlooks the town, is the perfect place to stay. Robin and Wendy Jackson, (2) ..... bought this small hotel three years ago, have already won an excellent reputation. Robin, (3) ..... cooking is one of the reasons (4) ..... the Derwent is so popular, was once Young Chef of the Year. The comfort of the guests, (5) ..... the owners treat almost as members of the family, always comes first. Peter Ustinov, (6) ..... once stayed at the hotel, described it as 'marvellous'. And the Lake District, (7) ..... has so much wonderful scenery and (8) ..... the poet Wordsworth lived, will not disappoint you.

## B Identifying clauses and adding clauses (1-3)

Put in the relative clauses. Sometimes there is more than one possible answer.

- ▶ Someone knows all about it – the secretary.  
 The person **who knows all about it** is the secretary.
- 1 Zedco has 10,000 employees. It's an international company.  
 Zedco, ..... , is an international company.
- 2 Vicky's name was missed off the list, so she wasn't very pleased.  
 Vicky, ..... , wasn't very pleased.
- 3 Laura painted a picture, and it's being shown in an exhibition.  
 The picture ..... is being shown in an exhibition.
- 4 We're all looking forward to a concert. It's next Saturday.  
 The concert ..... is next Saturday.
- 5 One week Mike and Harriet went camping. It was the wettest of the year.  
 The week ..... was the wettest of the year.
- 6 Aunt Joan is a bit deaf, so she didn't hear the phone.  
 Aunt Joan, ..... , didn't hear the phone.
- 7 You'll meet Henry tomorrow. He's also a member of the board.  
 Henry, ..... , is also a member of the board.
- 8 I'll see you near the post office. We met there the other day.  
 I'll see you near the post office, .....

## C A special use of which (4)

Match the sentence pairs and join them with **which**.

- ▶ My phone is out of order. It means he can't get about very easily.
- 1 Rachel's mother paid for the meal. It's made her very depressed.
- 2 My brother is disabled. That was rather careless of you.
- 3 You left the keys in the car. That caused a traffic jam.
- 4 Vicky didn't get the job. It's a real nuisance.
- 5 The police blocked off the road. That was very kind of her.

▶ *My phone is out of order, which is a real nuisance.*

- 1 .....
- 2 .....
- 3 .....
- 4 .....
- 5 .....

# 143 Relative clauses: participle and to-infinitive

## 1 Relative clauses with a participle

Read this news report about an accident.

Several people were injured this morning when a lorry carrying concrete pipes overturned in the centre of town and hit two cars. Ambulances called to the scene took a long time to get through the rush hour traffic. The accident happened in Alfred Road, where road repairs are under way. People who saw the accident say that the lorry hit the cars after it swerved to avoid a pile of stones left in the road. The traffic chaos caused by the accident has meant long delays for people travelling to work.

Carrying concrete pipes, called to the scene, etc. are relative clauses: they relate to a noun. Carrying concrete pipes tells us something about a lorry.

We can form these clauses with an active participle, e.g. carrying, or a passive participle, e.g. called. The participles can refer to the present or the past.

ACTIVE	PASSIVE
There are delays this morning for people <b>travelling</b> to work. (= people who are travelling to work)	I have a message for people <b>delayed</b> by the traffic chaos. (= people who are being delayed)
A lorry <b>carrying</b> concrete pipes has overturned. (= a lorry which was carrying pipes)	We noticed a pile of stones <b>left</b> in the road. (= stones which had been left there)
the path <b>leading</b> to the church (= the path which leads/led to the church)	food <b>sold</b> in supermarkets (= food which is/was sold in supermarkets)
The active participle means the same as a pronoun + a continuous verb, e.g. which is/was carrying, or a pronoun + a simple verb, e.g. which leads/led.	The passive participle means the same as a pronoun + a passive verb, e.g. which is/was sold.
But we do NOT use the active participle for a single action in the past. The police want to interview people <b>who saw</b> the accident. NOT <del>people seeing</del> the accident	

## 2 Relative clauses with a to-infinitive

Look at this structure with the to-infinitive.

New Zealand was the **first** country **to give** women the vote.  
(= the first country which gave women the vote)  
Melanie was the **only** person **to write** a letter of thanks.  
(= the only person who wrote a letter of thanks)

Here are some more examples.

The guest on our show is the **youngest** golfer **to win** the Open.  
Emma Thompson is the **most famous** actress **to appear** on stage here.

We can use a to-infinitive with these words: first, second, etc; next and last; only; and superlatives, e.g. youngest, most famous.

We can leave out the noun (except after only) if the meaning is clear.

The captain was the **last to leave** the sinking ship.

## Practice

### A Relative clauses with a participle (1)

Complete the definitions. Put in an active or passive participle of these verbs: *add, arrive, block, own, play, take, tell, watch, wear*

- ▶ A competitor is someone taking part in a competition.
  - ▶ Your property is everything owned by you.
- 1 Baseball is a game ..... mainly in the US.
  - 2 A wrist-watch is a watch ..... on your wrist.
  - 3 A latecomer is a person ..... late.
  - 4 An instruction is a statement ..... you what to do.
  - 5 A spectator is someone ..... a game or an event.
  - 6 An extension is a new part ..... on to a building.
  - 7 An obstacle is something ..... your way.

### B Relative clauses with a participle (1)

Write each news item as one sentence. Change the part in brackets into a clause with an active participle (e.g. *costing*) or a passive participle (e.g. *found*).

- ▶ A new motorway is planned. (It will cost £500 million.)  
A new motorway costing £500 million is planned.
  - ▶ Some weapons belong to the IRA. (They were found at a flat in Bristol.)  
Some weapons found at a flat in Bristol belong to the IRA.
- 1 Families have been evicted. (They were living in an empty office building.)  
Families .....
  - 2 A chemical company has gone bankrupt. (It employed 4,000 people.)  
A chemical company .....
  - 3 A bridge has been declared unsafe. (It was built only two years ago.)  
A bridge .....
  - 4 People have marched to London. (They are protesting against pollution.)  
.....
  - 5 Tennis fans have been queuing all night at Wimbledon. (They hope to buy tickets.)  
.....
  - 6 A new drug may give us eternal youth. (It was developed at a British university.)  
.....

### C Relative clauses with a to-infinitive (2)

Comment on each situation. Use the to-infinitive structure.

- ▶ David offered his help. No one else did.  
David was the only person to offer his help.
- 1 Olivia's daughter swam a length of the pool. No other girl as young as her did that.  
Olivia's daughter was .....
  - 2 The secretaries got a pay rise. No one else did.  
The secretaries were .....
  - 3 The pilot left the aircraft. Everyone else had left before him.  
.....
  - 4 Mrs Harper became Managing Director. No other woman had done that before.  
.....
  - 5 Daniel applied for the job. No other candidate as suitable as him applied.  
.....