# Further information

**For the definition, construction, uses and general information about who, which, that, whose, whom and where, see other rules. Here is some further information:**

## Omission of relative pronoun

**In some defining relative clauses, it is possible to omit who, which or that.**

> **The client (who/that) we met in London is coming to see us next week.**

**This is because 'the client' is the object of the verb 'met' and the subject of the verb 'is coming'. Here are some more examples:**

> **These are the boots (which/that) I wear for hiking.**
> **These are the people (who/whom/that) I met at the conference.**
> **This is the report (which/that) I wrote after the conference.**
> **The pictures (which/that) they showed us at the presentation were really interesting.**

**In the following, we cannot omit the relative pronoun because 'My sister' is the subject of the verb 'lives'.**

> **My sister who lives in Paris is an architect.** ✔
> **My sister ~~who~~ lives in Paris is an architect.** ✖

**Similarly:**

> **I'm looking forward to meeting the client who is coming next week.** ✔
> **I'm looking forward to meeting the client is coming next week.** ✖

## Prepositions with relative pronouns

**Some English speakers believe that we should never end a sentence or a clause with a preposition. Instead, they place the preposition before which, whom or whose.**

**For example:**

> **This is a company in which many talented people work.**
> **It's an organisation to whose seminars people from around the world are invited.**

**Although this structure is acceptable in formal, written English, it sounds unnatural in**

**conversation:**

| Too formal in conversation | Preferred |
|---|---|
| The friends with whom we went on holiday are coming to dinner next week. | The friends we went on holiday with are coming to dinner next week. |
| To whom does this bag belong? | Who does this bag belong to? |
| Can you remember that Greek restaurant to which we went last year? | Can you remember that Greek restaurant we went to last year? |
| In whose team are you? | Whose team are you in? |

# What

**Do not use 'what' in relative clauses. It does not have the same meaning as 'which' and 'that'.**

> **This is the report what I wrote after the conference.** ✖
> **This is the report (which/that) I wrote after the conference.** ✔

**If there is any doubt, think of 'what' as meaning 'the thing(s) that'.**

> **This is what I wrote after the conference. ['what' = the thing that I wrote = the report]**
> **Can you tell me what you have done today? [the things that you have done]**
> **I told them what they have to bring with them to the conference. [the thing or things that they have to bring]**

**Note that it can be used either as a subject or an object. As a subject, it can take either a singular or a plural verb:**

> **What they showed us at the presentation was very interesting. What I liked most were the pictures.**

# All that

**With 'all', we do not use which. We use that in this kind of sentence:**

> **All that happened was another disagreement about the launch date - it wasn't a productive meeting.**
> **They provided all that was required.**

**But in this kind of sentence, when there is a subject and verb, it's better to omit that:**

> **All we need to do is agree on a date - then we can go home.**
> **I'm not an expert - all I know is how to switch it on and off.**

# Of which, whom, whose

**We can use which, whom and whose with numbers and quantifiers in this kind of sentence in order to avoid using two sentences and a pronoun:<?xml:namespace prefix = "o" ns = "urn:schemas-microsoft-com:office:office" />**

| | |
|---|---|
| **They have three cars, one of which is a Renault.** | **= They have three cars. One of them is a Renault.** |
| **We stayed in a hotel in Paris, the name of which I can't remember.** | **= We stayed in a hotel in Paris. I can't remember the name of it.** |
| **There are two films on TV tonight, both of which I've seen before.** | **= There are two films on TV tonight. I've seen both of them before.** |
| **Matt has three brothers, two of whom are married.*** | **= Matt has three brothers. Two of them are married.** |
| **I have lots of clients in Asia, most of whom can't speak French. *** | **= I have lots of clients in Asia. Most of them can't speak French.** |
| **I deal with a company, many of whose clients are Asian.** | **= I deal with a company. Most of its clients are Asians.** |
| **She's an American writer, some of whose books have been translated into French.** | **= She's an American writer. Some of her books have been translated into French.** |

***Note that in these examples, who is not possible and whom doesn't sound too formal or unnatural as it does in other relative clauses.**

# Nominal relative clauses

**These are a kind of noun clause. They have a 'wh' word at the beginning and are found as subjects or objects in various kinds of sentences.**

**Here are some examples:**

1. **'wh' + infinitive is used after some verbs, including the following:**

   **I don't know where to have the meeting or who to invite.**
   **She informed him who to contact about the changes.**
   **They advised us where to park.**

2. **When we introduce something with the verb 'to be':**

   **This is where I'd love to live.**
   **This is who I've invited.**

3. **In questions:**

   **Do you know where to put it?**

4. **Sentences that imply a question or a lack of information:**

   **I wonder who that is.**
   **I asked her where I could find a bank.**

5. **As a subject:**

   **Where we're going to launch the new product has still to be decided.**

6. **Note that we can also make these kinds of sentences with 'what' and 'how'. For example:**

   **I found out what to do with these - let me explain.**
   **She warned us what to expect if we didn't take action immediately.**
   **He told us how to fix it.**
   **That isn't what I meant.**
   **Here's what I've prepared so far.**
   **This isn't how we usually do it.**
   **Can you remember what he said?**

**What we learned at the seminar was really useful.**

7. **When we want to be emphatic, we use a noun clause at the beginning of a sentence as a subject:**

| Emphatic | Neutral |
|---|---|
| **What I like most about him is his honesty.** | **I like his honesty most.** |
| **What I need right now is a strong cup of coffee and some chocolate.** | **I need a strong cup of coffee and some chocolate.** |
| **What I hated about that job was the long journey every morning.** | **I hated the long journey every morning in that job.** |
| **Where I'd really like to go this year is the US.** | **I'd really like to go to the US this year.** |

# Reduced relative clauses

## Reduced relative clauses

**To make certain relative clauses more succinct, we leave out both the pronoun and the verb.**

| | Full sentence | Reduced sentence |
|---|---|---|
| **With a present participle** | **The people who are working on this project are the best in their field.** | **The people working on this project are the best in their field.** |
| | **The people who weren't working on this project didn't have to attend the meeting.** | **The people not working on this project didn't have to attend the meeting.** |
| **With a past participle** | **We ordered the equipment that was needed for the job.** | **We ordered the equipment needed for the job.** |
| | **We can sell any equipment that isn't needed.** | **We can sell any equipment not needed.** |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **With some adjectives** | **The assistant who is responsible for booking appointments is really efficient.**<br><br>**Can you send a copy of the minutes to all those who were not present?** | **The assistant responsible for booking appointments is really efficient.**<br><br>**Can you send a copy of the minutes to all those not present?** |
| **With a preposition** | **Can you look at those files that are on the desk?**<br><br>**Everyone who was at the conference got a free sample.** | **Can you look at those files on the desk?**<br><br>**Everyone at the conference got a free sample.** |

## Note that

**1. The participles remain the same whether we are talking about the past, present or future.**

**2. The use of present participles can represent either a simple or continuous tense. For example:**

**We used the laptops which belong to the IT department.**
**We used the laptops belonging to the IT department.**

**Anyone who wants to attend needs to apply before the end of the day.**
**Anyone wanting to attend needs to apply before the end of the day.**

**3. Sometimes there is either a 'simple' or 'continuous' meaning.**

**Passengers arriving from the EU need to queue here.**
**= Passengers who arrive from the EU... [all the time, regularly]**
**or**
**= Passengers who are arriving from the EU... [at the moment]**

**4. We can also reduce relative clauses that use the verb 'to have':**

**They're experts who have unique knowledge of this topic.**
**They're experts with unique knowledge of this topic.**

**It's a company which has branches nationwide.**
**It's a company with branches nationwide.**



**Denmark has the best work-life balance of the 20 OECD countries studied.**



**We called an urgent meeting for all those involved in the project.**

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Last update: **2023/02/14 14:32**