

DEFINING RELATIVE CLAUSES

- tell the reader (or listener) which person or thing is being referred to
- are essential parts of the sentence - without them the sentence would not make sense
- are **not** used with commas
- **can** be used with the relative pronoun '**that**'

Example 1: "The essay **that/which** you handed in last week was the best piece of work I have received from you."

Example 2: "The presenter **that/who** gave the keynote speech at the conference was the most interesting and informative."

Example 3: "The exam **that/which** I need to take to gain access to my chosen course is only offered at three centres in this city."



NON-DEFINING RELATIVE CLAUSES

- add extra, non-essential information to a sentence
- are used with commas before and after them (if they do not lead to a full stop)
- **cannot** be used with '**that**' as the relative pronoun
- can refer to the noun that precedes the clause, or the whole of the main clause

Example 1: "The summer temperatures **which** were the hottest I had ever known led to guardsmen fainting."

(notice the commas!)

Example 2: "The animals in the zoo **who** were all very cold seemed to be unhappy."

(notice the commas!)

Example 3: "The athlete in the black and green top has just won the race **which** surprised nobody."

(the fact he won the race surprised nobody)



OMISSION OF THE RELATIVE PRONOUN

- it is possible to omit the relative pronoun when it is the object of a defining relative clause

Example 1: "The food (**that**) I cooked for the dinner party was appreciated by everybody."

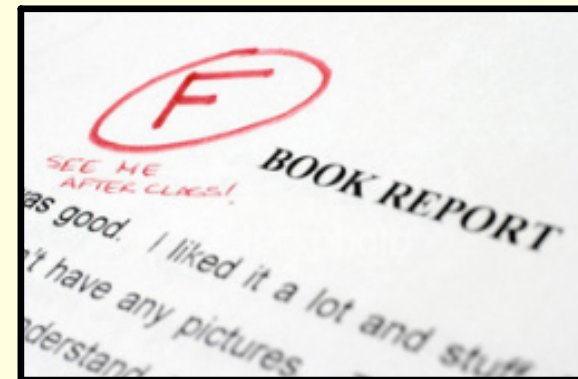
OBJECT SUBJECT

It IS possible to omit this relative pronoun

It is NOT possible to omit this relative pronoun

Example 2: "The student who complained about the lecturer was not happy with the grade he eventually received."

SUBJECT



Now try the exercises!

Good luck!

