

CHOOSING THE CORRECT RELATIVE PRONOUN/ADVERB

- the relative adverb "**where**" is used for **places**: in a **defining** relative clause "**that**"
- or "**which**" is also possible, but only with an extra preposition
- the relative adverb "**when**" is used for **days/years/times**: in a **defining** relative clause "**that**" is also possible
- "**why**" is used for **the reason** something happens: in a **defining** relative clause "**that**" is also possible

(with these pronouns an extra preposition is needed)

Example 1: The mosque **where/that/which** they met **in/at** was in Istanbul.

Example 2: That was the day **when/that** I decided to become a clown.

Example 3: The reason **why/that** we went to the park was to see the fireworks.



CHOOSING THE CORRECT RELATIVE PRONOUN

- "**who**" is used for people: in a *defining* relative clause "**that**" is also possible
- "**whom**" is possible instead of "**who**" when it is the **object** of the verb in the relative clause, though it is extremely rare in speaking and very formal in writing; but "**whom**" *must* be used, if "**whom**" directly follows a preposition ("**to**", "**with**", "**for**" etc.),
- "**whose**" is used like "his/her/their" to show *possession* and is usually used for people
- "**which**" is used for things: in a *defining* relative clause "**that**" is also possible

Example 1: The doctor **who/that** treated me was wearing a turban.

Example 2: The lady to **whom** I spoke reported the fire in the factory. (formal)
(preposition)

Example 3: The lady **who** I spoke to reported the fire in the factory. (informal)

Example 4: The student **whose** mobile phone was stolen reported it to the police.

Example 5: The bag **which/that** contained the money has been handed in.



CHOOSING THE CORRECT RELATIVE PRONOUN

- "**what**" is only used when it means "**the thing(s) that**" and is used after a verb, not a noun
- "All of/many of/(a) few of/ both of/none of" + "**whom**" is used formally for people, in *non-defining* relative clauses
- "All of/many of/(a) few of/ both of/none of" + "**which**" is used for things, in *non-defining* relative clauses

Example 1: I thought the best part of the speech was what he said at the beginning.

(verb, not noun)

Example 2: The lecturer did not believe what she told him on the phone about the dog eating her homework.

(verb, not noun)

(the things that) ↑

Example 3: The children, both of **whom** were hungry, started crying.

(non-defining - so, notice the commas!)

Example 4: The luggage, most of **which** was heavy, was left at the airport.



Now try the exercises!

Good luck!

