

# Year 5-6 Grammar Revision

Relative Clauses



twinkl

# Relative Clauses: The Rules

**Relative clauses** give **extra information** related to a previously mentioned **noun** or **pronoun** within a sentence. A relative clause always starts with a **relative pronoun**.

Jess was going to a fancy dress party.  
She was dressed as Batman.

The second sentence adds some extra information about the noun in the first sentence so we can turn it into a relative clause, like this...

Jess, who was dressed as Batman,  
was going to a fancy dress party.

*Who* is a **relative pronoun** so this clause of extra information is called a **relative clause**. As this is extra, non-essential (non-restrictive) information we put the clause in **commas**.

# Relative Clauses: The Rules

A relative clause almost always starts with a **relative pronoun**.  
Other relative pronouns are:

that

whom

whose

who

which



# Relative Clauses: The Rules

Where in a sentence?

In all of the sentences we've looked at so far, the relative clauses have always been in the **middle** of the main clause e.g.

25 Maple Street, which has been up for sale for years, is apparently haunted.

A ghost, whose name is Mr. Stonegarden, roams the corridors.

The estate agent, who badly needs a sale, is frightened to show people around.



They were all embedded\* inside the main clause.  
Therefore, we could also call them **embedded relative clauses**.  
However, relative clauses don't always have to be embedded...

\*in the middle of

# Relative Clauses: The Rules

Where in a sentence?

Look at this sentence. Where is the relative clause now? How do you know?

The children all did well in the spelling test,  
which made their teacher smile.

*Which* is the **relative pronoun** so this time the **relative clause** is **after** the **main clause**. We still need a **comma** before the relative clause as this is also extra, non-essential (non-restrictive) information.



# Relative Clauses: The Tricky Bits

Relative clauses can be **non-restrictive** (not essential to the meaning of the sentence) or **restrictive** (essential to the meaning of the sentence).

Here is a restrictive relative clause...

The book that I bought yesterday cost me ten dollars.

*That* is a **relative pronoun** so this is a **relative clause**. This time the information in the extra clause is essential (restrictive) to the meaning of the sentence so therefore we don't need to use commas.

Here's another example of a restrictive relative clause:

The distraught teacher threw the test papers that were full of mistakes up in the air.

ers! It?  
“”  
themselves  
ove

