


# Relative pronouns

Relative pronouns may:

| 1. substitute precisely an ENTIRE NOUN PHRASE  |        |  |  |
|--|--------|--|--|
|  |        | <b>Defining</b><br>when the relative clause is necessary to identify who or what we are speaking about.  | <b>Non-defining</b><br>when the relative clause is not necessary to the identification of who/what we are speaking about, but gives extra information. |
| <b>Subject (Subj.)</b><br>when rel. pro. has the function of subject in the relative sentence  | People | <b>WHO / THAT</b><br>> <i>That is the new manager <b>who/that</b> (= the new manager) launched the new product.</i>  | <b>WHO</b><br>> <i>Mr Heritachi, <b>who</b> (= Mr Heritachi) is the new manager, launched the new product.</i>   |
|  | Things | <b>WHICH / THAT</b><br>> <i>The leather wallet <b>which/that</b> (= the leather wallet) isn't selling very well has just been discontinued.</i>  | <b>WHICH</b><br>> <i>Our leather wallet B324, <b>which</b> (= our leather wallet B324) isn't selling very well, has just been discontinued.</i>        |
| <b>Direct object (DO)</b><br>when rel. pro. has the function of direct object in the relative sentence                                   | People | <b>(WHO / WHOM* / THAT)**</b><br>> <i>The woman (<b>who/whom/that</b>) (= the woman) I've just met is your new colleague.</i>  | <b>WHO / WHOM*</b><br>> <i>Sandy Lynn, <b>who/whom</b> (= Sandy Lynn) I've just met, is your new colleague.</i>  |
|  | Things | <b>(WHICH / THAT)**</b><br>> <i>The yellow parcel (<b>which/that</b>) (= the parcel) you have left at reception is for Mr Smith.</i>   | <b>WHICH</b><br>> <i>Mr Smith's parcel, <b>which</b> (= Mr Smith's parcel) you have left at reception, is yellow.</i>                                  |
| <b>Indirect object (IO)</b><br>when rel. pro. has the function of indirect object in the relative sentence (introduced by a preposition) | People | <b>(WHO / WHOM* / THAT)***</b><br>> <i>The man (<b>who/whom/that</b>) (= the man) I've told you <b>about</b> yesterday will get a promotion.</i>   | <b>WHO / WHOM*</b><br>> <i>Paul Ghering, <b>who/whom</b> (= Paul Ghering) I told you <b>about</b> yesterday, will get a promotion.</i>                 |
|  | Things | <b>(WHICH / THAT)***</b><br>> <i>The parking lot (<b>which/that</b>) (= the parking lot) you've parked <b>in</b> is the manager's.</i>   | <b>WHICH</b><br>> <i>This parking lot, <b>which</b> (= the parking lot) you've parked <b>in</b>, is the manager's.</i>                                 |
|   |        | <p>* = <i>whom</i> is quite formal.<br/>         ** ( ) = the relative pronoun may be omitted.<br/>         *** = generally the preposition is put at the end of the relative sentence even if the relative pronoun is omitted. However, it can precede the relative pronoun as well, though in this case the option <i>that</i> is not available.</p> |  |

## 2. substitute an entire NOUN PHRASE + A PREPOSITION

- Preposition of time + rel. pro. → **WHEN**  
> *The end of October is the right moment **when** (= in which) launching our Christmas products.*
- Preposition of place + rel. pro. → **WHERE**  
> *Boutiques, **where** (= in which) our products sell quite well, can't be enough if we want to expand.*
- Rel. pro. + Saxon genitive → **WHOSE**  
> *Mr Dettel, **whose** (= Mr Dettel's) wife works in HR, has just found a new job.*
- Preposition of cause + rel. pro. → **WHY**  
> *This is the reason **why** (= for which) we can't expand to eastern countries.*

## 3. Make reference to something other than a given noun phrase

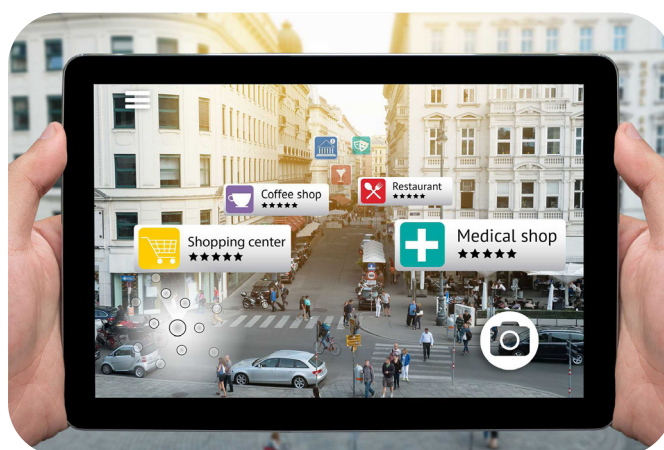
- Reference to noun phrase known to the speaker and listener but not mentioned → **WHAT**  
> *This is **what** (= information which is not mentioned but referred to) the customer requests.*
- Reference to previous information and the way something should be done → **HOW**  
> *This is **how** (= the way in which, reference to previous information) the customer wants it packed.*
- Reference to the whole preceding and mentioned sentence → **WHICH**  
> *Sales have increased steadily, **which** (= the fact that sales have increased steadily) has pleased our CEO a lot.*

**1 Underline the relative pronouns, if present, and identify their category, function and reference.**

|  | Def. or non-def? | People or things? | Subj., DO, or IO? | Noun phrase |
|--|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------|
| 1. The printer X we have just bought doesn't work very well.                                       | Def.             | Things            | DO                | The printer |
| 2. Ms Therry, who has just been moved to Paris, has a lot of experience with computer programming. |                  |                   |                   |             |
| 3. What is the name of the videogame you gave me yesterday?  |                  |                   |                   |             |
| 4. The new antivirus we installed wasn't very good.  |                  |                   |                   |             |
| 5. Our latest operating system, which you worked on, is very popular.                              |                  |                   |                   |             |
| 6. We are looking for the person that gave us these twisted pair cables.                           |                  |                   |                   |             |
| 7. My password, which was too weak, has just been stolen.  |                  |                   |                   |             |
| 8. She works for a company which sells products online.  |                  |                   |                   |             |

**2 Complete the sentences with the correct relative pronouns. Write all possible options.**

- The technician ..... I talked to was very helpful.
- The programmers, ..... CVs you looked at yesterday, are all very qualified.
- I work in a shop ..... sells smart TVs.
- With AR, digital overlays can be created to see ..... features will look like.
- This is the place ..... we tried virtual reality for the first time.
- I can't find the e-mail ..... you sent me.
- Mr Johnson, ..... is abroad now, asked us to make a videoconference.
- CIM involves various processes ..... increase manufacturing efficiency.



### 3 Complete the sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first. Use the word given and between 2 and 5 words.

1. Artificial intelligence, which has the purpose to reproduce human intelligence, is a branch of computer science.  
Artificial intelligence, whose purpose is to reproduce human intelligence, is a branch of computer science. WHOSE
2. The American Robotics Society has written a complaint and I want you to deal with it immediately. I want you to deal immediately with the ..... by the American Robotics Society. WHICH
3. This smart factory is well organised and productive.  
I work here.  
The smart factory ..... well organised and productive. WHERE
4. Where is the PowerPoint of that meeting? I thought you saved it in your PC.  
I can't find the PowerPoint of ..... you saved in your PC. WHICH
5. We are looking for a monitor. It must be large and high resolution.  
The monitor ..... must be large and high resolution. FOR