

## DEFINING AND NON-DEFINING RELATIVE CLAUSES

### Relative pronouns:

who/that - people: *She's the woman **who/that** works with me.*

who(m)/that - people: *She's the girl **who(m)** I met last summer* (object of the relative clause) and after prepositions - *The meeting was led by two men, one of **whom** is pretty famous.*

which/that - things, animals: *It's a shop **which** sells candles.* // which- previous clauses: *You have all done your homework for today, **which** makes me happy.*

whose (of who/of which) - possessive: *He's the boy **whose** father owns the school.*

where - places: *A museum is a place **where** you can see objects that are important for our history.*

when - time: *The moment **when** you told me about her death was dreadful.*

why - reason: *The reason **why** I'm here is to explain...*

DEFINING RELATIVE CLAUSES	NON-DEFINING RELATIVE CLAUSES
<p>- they give essential information (they CANNOT be omitted) <i>The man <b>who</b> was standing next to the door was my father.</i></p>	<p>- they do not give essential information (they CAN be omitted) <i>That man, <b>who</b> was standing next to the door, was my father.</i></p>
<p>- without commas: <i>The book <b>which / that / - I'm</b> reading at the moment is really good.</i></p>	<p>- between commas (or a comma and a full stop). <i>My granny, <b>who's</b> nearly 80, still cooks every day.</i> <i>My granny usually bakes strawberry cakes, <b>which</b> are delicious.</i></p>
<p>- the relative pronoun can be omitted as long as it is <b>NOT</b> the subject of the relative clause <i>She's the woman <b>who</b> works with me.</i> <b>NOT</b> * <i>She's the woman works with me.</i></p> <p>BUT <i>She's the woman I told you about.</i> <i>She's the woman <b>who(m)</b> I told you about.</i></p>	<p>- the relative pronoun <b>CANNOT</b> be omitted, no matter whether it is object or subject of the relative clause <i>That man, <b>who</b> was standing next to the door, was my father.</i> <i>subject</i></p> <p><b>NOT</b> *<i>That man, was standing next to the door, was my father.</i></p> <p><i>That man, <b>who(m)</b> I told you about, is handsome.</i> <b>NOT</b> *<i>The man, I told you about, is handsome</i></p>
<p>- you can use <b>BOTH who/which</b> and <b>that</b> when the relative pronoun is the subject or the object of the relative clause: <i>She's the actress <b>who/ that</b> appears on TV.</i> <i>subject</i></p> <p><i>She's the girl <b>who(m)/that</b> I met that summer</i> <i>object</i></p>	<p>- you <b>CAN'T</b> use <b>that</b> instead of <b>which</b> when the relative pronoun is the subject of the relative clause. <i>This book, <b>which</b> was first published last year, is a best-seller.</i> <i>subject</i></p> <p><b>NOT</b> *<i>This book, <b>that</b> was first published last year, is a best-seller.</i> <i>subject</i></p>

