**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**
- they give essential information (they CANNOT be omitted)
  *The man *who* was standing next to the door *was my father.*
- without commas:
  *The book *which* I’m reading at the moment is really good.*
  *My granny, *who’s nearly 80, still cooks every day.*
  *My granny usually bakes strawberry cakes, *which* are delicious.*
- the relative pronoun can be omitted as long as it is NOT the subject of the relative clause
  *She’s the woman *who* works with me.*
  *She’s the woman *who(m) I told you about.*
  *She’s the woman *who(m) I told you about.*
  *NOT *She’s the woman *who* works with me.*
  *NOT *She’s the woman *who(m) I told you about.*
  *BUT*
  *She’s the woman I told you about.*
  *She’s the woman *who(m) I told you about.*

**NON-DEFINING RELATIVE CLAUSES**
- they do not give essential information (they CAN be omitted)
  *That man, *who* was standing next to the door, *was my father.*
- between commas (or a comma and a full stop).
  *My granny, *who’s nearly 80, still cooks every day.*
  *My granny usually bakes strawberry cakes, *which* are delicious.*
- the relative pronoun CANNOT be omitted, no matter whether it is object or subject of the relative clause
  *That man, *who* was standing next to the door, *was my father.*
  *That man, *who(m) I told you about, *is handsome.*
  *That man, *who(m) I told you about, *is handsome.*
  *NOT *That man, *who(m) I told you about, *is handsome.*
  *NOT *The man, *I told you about, *is handsome*

- you can use BOTH *who/which* and *that* when the relative pronoun is the subject or the object of the relative clause:
  *She’s the actress *who/that* appears on TV.*
  *She’s the girl *who(m)/that* I met that summer*
- you CAN’T use *that* instead of *which* when the relative pronoun is the subject of the relative clause.
  *This book, *which* was first published last year, *is a best-seller.*
  *NOT *This book, *that* was first published last year, *is a best-seller.*