

Lesson Plan:

Relative clauses (advanced)

LEVEL	TIME	SKILLS	FOCUS
Upper-intermediate to advanced (B2-C1)	60-75 minutes	Grammar, speaking, reading, writing	Defining and non-defining relative clauses, reduced relative clauses, embedded relative clauses

Objectives

By the end of the lesson, students will be able to:

- Differentiate between defining and non-defining relative clauses.
- Use reduced relative clauses correctly.
- Embed relative clauses naturally in spoken and written English.
- Identify and correct errors in advanced sentence structures.

Materials

- Whiteboard / Markers
- Handouts (included below)
- Short article or text with rich use of relative clauses (e.g., a biography, news story)
- Slides or projector (optional)

Lesson Procedure

1. Warm-up (10 min)

- Ask: "What do these words have in common? Who, which, that, where, whose?"
- Elicit responses and note down example sentences on the board.
- Briefly review basic relative clause structure.

2. Presentation (15 min)

A. Quick Review of Relative Pronouns

Pronoun	Refers to	Example
who	people	The woman who called you is my boss.
which	things	The book which I lent you is overdue.
that	people/things (defining only)	The car that broke down was new.
whose	possession	The student whose phone rang got a warning.
where	place	The café where we met is closed.

B. Focus on Advanced Uses

- **Non-defining Clauses** (require commas, give extra info):

My sister, who lives in Canada, is visiting next week.

- **Reduced Relative Clauses**

Example:

- Full: Students who are studying for the exam should review these notes.
- Reduced: Students studying for the exam should review these notes.

- **Embedded Relative Clauses**

Example:

The man I spoke to, who had just arrived from Tokyo, didn't know the time.

3. Controlled Practice (15 min)

A. Sentence Transformation

Handout Activity:

Transform the sentences using reduced or non-defining relative clauses.

1. The car that is parked outside belongs to John.

The car parked outside belongs to John.

2. My aunt lives in Spain. She is an artist.

My aunt, who is an artist, lives in Spain.

B. Error Correction

Identify and correct the errors in relative clauses:

- The woman, that I saw yesterday, was wearing red.
- The man whom dog barked all night kept the neighbors awake.

4. Communicative Practice (15 min)

A. Information-Gap Activity

- Students get cards with facts about a famous person (real or fictional).
- Partner must ask questions using relative clauses to figure out the identity.

"Is it someone **whose** work is related to science?"

"Is it a person **who** was born in the 19th century?"

B. Discussion Prompts

- "Describe someone you admire using at least two relative clauses."
- "Talk about a place you've visited which/that had a big impact on you."

5. Reading Activity (10 min)

Provide a short biography (e.g., of a historical figure), rich in relative clauses. Ask students to:

- Highlight all relative clauses.
- Decide if each is defining, non-defining, or reduced.

6. Writing Task (Optional / Homework)

Prompt: Write a paragraph about an influential person in your life, using at least **three types** of relative clauses (defining, non-defining, reduced).

Assessment / Wrap-Up (5 min)

- Quick oral quiz: Give definitions or ask students to create examples on the spot.
- Exit ticket: "Write one complex sentence using a relative clause you learned today."