

Lesson Plan: Relative clauses 2

Level	Intermediate (B1–B2)
Time	60–75 minutes
Skills	Grammar, writing
Focus	Who, which, that, whose — defining and non-defining relative clauses; punctuation

OBJECTIVES

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

- Form defining and non-defining relative clauses correctly
- Use who, which, that, whose, and where appropriately
- Punctuate non-defining clauses with commas
- Understand when that can replace who/which and when it cannot

TARGET LANGUAGE (EXAMPLES)

Defining relative clauses

- The man who called you is outside.
- The book that I recommended is out of print.
- The city where she was born is in the south.
- No commas — the clause defines/identifies the noun.

Non-defining relative clauses

- My sister, who lives in Berlin, is a chef.
- The report, which was published last month, is available online.
- Commas required — the clause adds extra information.

That vs. who/which

- That: only in defining clauses, not in non-defining.
- Cannot omit relative pronoun when it is the subject.

Whose

- The student whose essay won the prize is in this class.
- The company whose products we sell has just gone bankrupt.

LESSON PROCEDURE

1. Warm-up (10 min)

Task: Can you guess the word? Teacher gives a relative clause definition.

- 'It's a person who delivers letters.' → postman.
- Students take turns defining words for others to guess.

2. Presentation (15 min)

Task: Show defining vs. non-defining with colour-coded examples.

- Key contrast: add commas, remove that, add essential info vs. extra info.
- Read non-defining clauses aloud: there is a natural pause at the commas.

3. Guided practice (10 min)

Task: Combine two sentences using the correct relative pronoun.

- 'The car is outside. It belongs to the director.' → 'The car that is outside belongs to the director.'
- 'My colleague is from Seoul. She speaks three languages.' → 'My colleague, who speaks three languages, is from Seoul.'

4. Writing task (20 min)

Task: Students write a short description of a famous person without naming them.

- Others guess. Must include at least 3 relative clauses.
- Feedback: are commas in the right place? Is that used in defining clauses only?

5. Editing task (5–10 min)

Task: Correct 5 punctuation and relative pronoun errors.

EXTENSION / HOMEWORK

Choose one:

1. Write 6 pairs of sentences and combine them using relative clauses (3 defining, 3 non-defining).
2. Write a short biography of someone you admire using at least 4 relative clauses.
3. Edit a paragraph: add commas where needed and correct wrong relative pronouns.