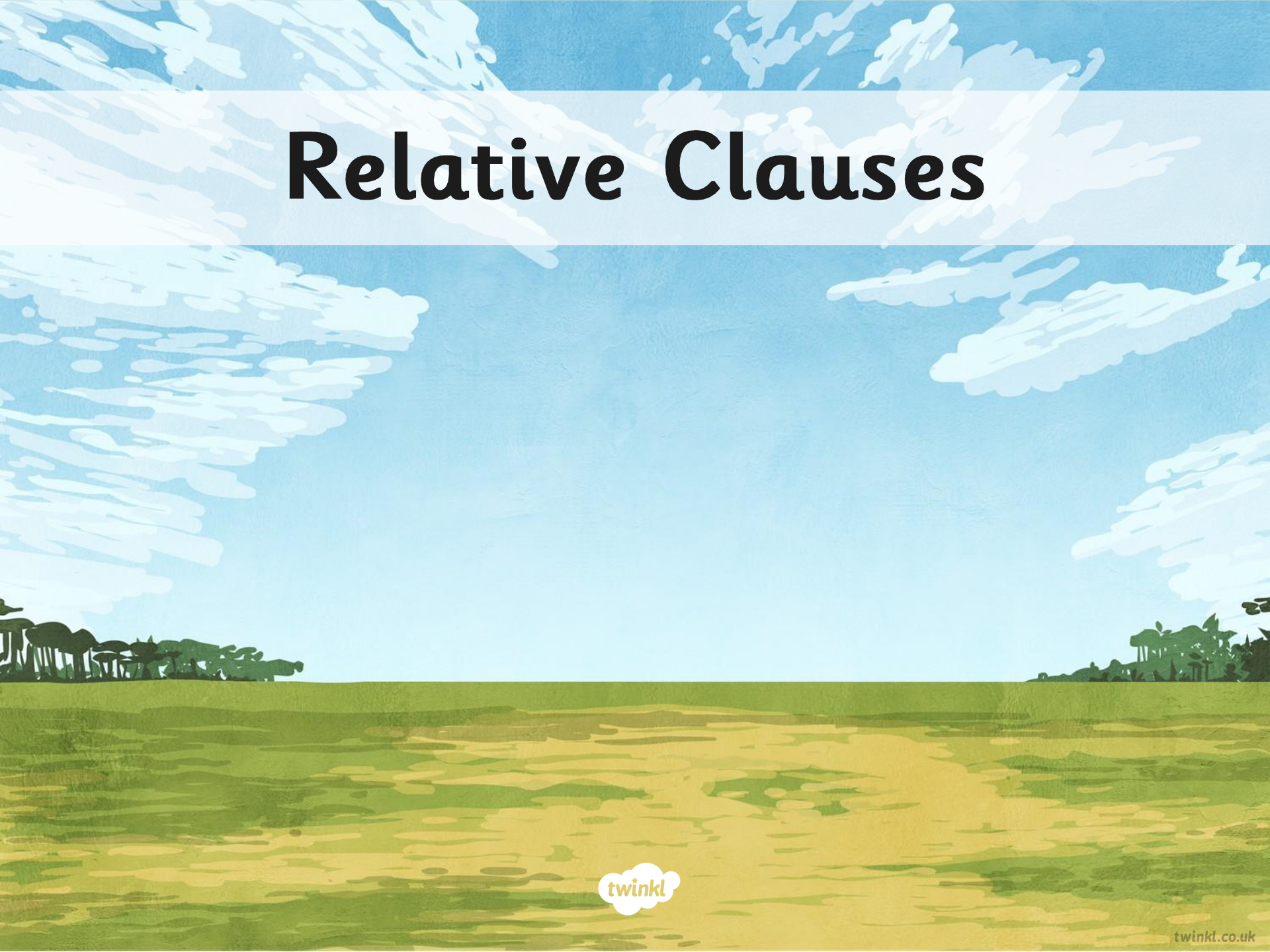
Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar

Relative Clauses

Relative Clauses



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Relative Clauses

Introductory Activity

Independent Focused Activity

Review Activity

Consolidation Activity

Assessment

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Aim

- I can use relative clauses.

Success Criteria

- I can explain that a multi-clause (or 'complex sentence') has at least two clauses.
- I can identify and use relative pronouns and relative clauses.
- I can explain the difference between non-essential and essential relative clauses.
- I can explain that an object relative pronoun can be left out of a clause.

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Introductory Activity



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Relative Clauses and Relative Pronouns

Let's start with a simple sentence.

- A simple sentence has one main clause = subject + verb.
- A simple sentence must make sense on its own.

Example: John was playing the piano.

The simple sentence isn't very interesting is it? Why don't we add some extra information?



John was playing the piano. He was in the hall.

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Relative Clauses and Relative Pronouns



OK, still rather simple. How could we improve it?

Let's make it a multi-clause sentence. A multi-clause (also known as a 'complex sentence') has at least one subordinate clause, plus a main clause. The subordinate clause must have its own subject and verb. The subordinate clause does not make sense on its own.

John was playing the piano. He was in the hall.

The second sentence adds a bit of non-essential information to the first one, so we can add it to the simple sentence to make a complex sentence, like this…

John, who was in the hall, was playing the piano.

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Relative Clauses and Relative Pronouns



We've dropped in a relative clause!
A **relative clause** gives us extra information about the noun in the main clause. It is connected to the main clause by a **relative pronoun**. We've replaced the pronoun in the second sentence with the **relative pronoun** – who.

John was playing the piano. He was in the hall.

main clause

John, who was in the hall, was playing the piano.

relative pronoun

relative clause

- Relative clauses add information to a sentence using relative pronouns.
- A relative pronoun is usually seen in a sentence at the beginning of a relative clause.
- A relative clause functions as an adjective, modifying nouns and pronouns.
- A relative clause starts with either a relative adverb: where, when, why or a relative pronoun such as: that, who, whom, whose, which.

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Relative Clauses and Relative Pronouns



The following are examples of sentences that have **relative clauses** starting with **relative pronouns**.

Can you identify the relative pronouns?

- Spaghetti, which many of us enjoy, can be messy.
- This is the book that everyone is talking about.
- She wrote to the person whom she had met last month.
- We didn't bring the receipt, which was a big mistake.
- I have a friend whose cat is annoying.
- People who are clever can always find a way.
- Grandma remembers a time when radio shows were popular.
- Never go to a doctor whose office plants have died. - Erma Bombeck
- The driver who went through the stop sign was careless.

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Independent Focused Activity



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Types of Relative Clauses



There are two types of relative clauses: **non-essential** and **essential**.

Non-essential relative clauses offer additional information about the noun.

They are separated from the rest of the sentences by commas because the information they provide can be left off without changing the meaning of the sentence.

The lamp post, where the girl was standing, was lit.

This gives the reader the extra information about the lamp post.

The lamp post where the girl was standing was lit.

This specifies the particular lamp post – the one where the girl was standing rather than the one by the bus stop.

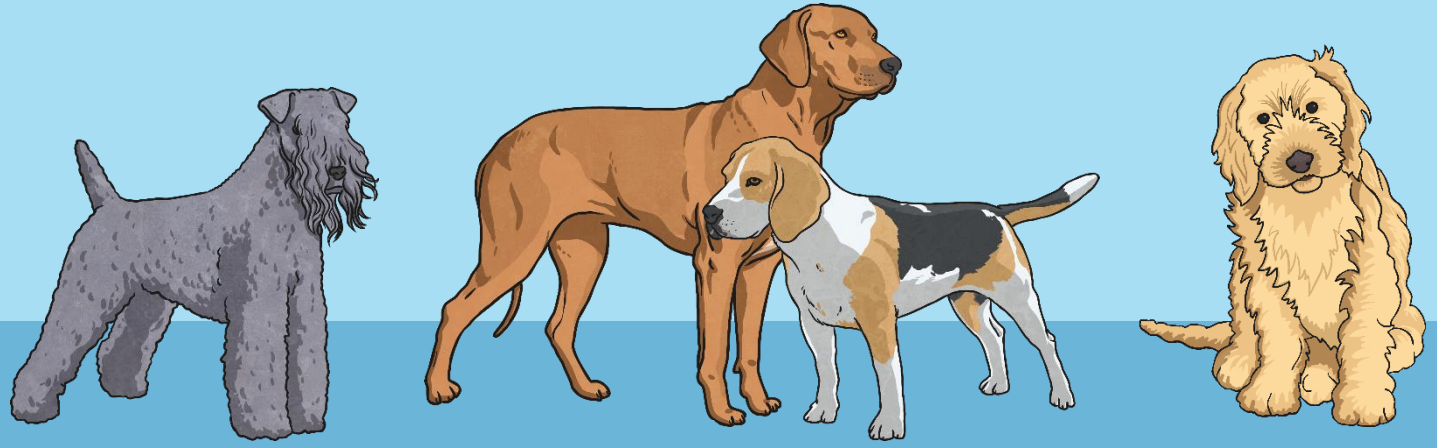
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Types of Relative Clauses

Another example:

Dogs that howl make me crazy.

I can't get rid of the words "that howl" because then I'd be saying all dogs make me crazy, not just the ones that howl, which isn't true. The relative clause in this example is essential.



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Types of Relative Clauses



Have you noticed anything about the **commas** in these essential relative clauses?

The test which we did yesterday was really easy.

The test we did yesterday was really easy.

Something that I've always wanted to do is sky-dive!

Something I've always wanted to do is sky-dive!

Friends who you meet at school can stay with you for life.

Friends who you meet at school can stay with you for life.

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Types of Relative Clauses



That's right – there aren't any commas!

The test ◯ which we did yesterday ◯ was really easy.

The test ◯ we did yesterday ◯ was really easy.

This is because the relative clause information **defines** the subject of the main clause.

In this example, there might have been lots of tests, but we are only interested in yesterday's test.

If it is a essential relative clause then we don't use commas.

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Review Activity



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Identifying When a Pronoun Can Be Omitted



Sometimes a relative pronoun can be omitted from a relative clause without affecting the sense of a sentence. This only works if the pronoun is the object of the clause – the person or thing receiving the action.

Example:

restrictive relative clause

Jack had to clean up the mess that the dog had made.

This is the object of the relative clause, so it can be omitted without changing the meaning of the sentence.



Jack had to clean up the mess the dog had made.

The sentence makes sense without the relative pronoun and object **that**.

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Identifying When a Pronoun Can Be Omitted



In some relative clauses, the relative pronouns **who**, **which** or **that** can be omitted.

Another Example:

Is this the jacket (which/that) you were looking for?

Is this the jacket you were looking for?

The shoes (which/that) I want cost £10.50.

The shoes I want cost £10.50.

Your clever brain reads the missing words in for you to complete the sentence!

When we leave out the relative pronoun the sentence still makes sense.

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Identifying When a Pronoun Can Be Omitted



How do you know a relative pronoun has to be omitted?

Remember! Relative pronouns can be omitted if they refer to the **object** of the verb.

Break up the multi-clause into two simple sentences to find out.

Is this the jacket you? You were looking for **it**.



subject | verb | object

The shoes cost £10.50. I want **them**.



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Identifying When a Pronoun Can Be Omitted



How do you know a relative pronoun has to be kept?

Relative pronouns have to stay in the sentence if they refer to the **subject** of the verb.

I'm looking for my coat, **which** has a furry hood.

I'm looking for **my coat**. **It** has a furry hood.

subject verb



Where is the pen **that** was on my desk?

Where is the pen? **It** was on my desk.

subject verb



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Identifying When a Pronoun Can Be Omitted



For each of these multi-clause, decide whether the relative pronoun can be ~~left out~~ of the subordinate clause or must stay in.

Jake, who is only ten, has been scouted for United.

The chocolate bar ~~that~~ we left on the table has melted!

Your bags, which you've left on the floor, are a danger to others.

Where is the homework ~~which~~ I asked for yesterday?

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Consolidation Activity



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Spot the Clauses



For each of the following sentences, can you identify the main clause, subordinate clause and relative pronoun?

We have a lot of cousins who live in other cities.

The rain, that had been forecast, poured heavily.

The machine which broke down has been mended.

Your PE bag should be on your peg, where you can also hang up your coat.

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