Defining & Non-Defining Relative Clauses: Connecting Ideas

Level: B1-B2 Intermediate

Today, we will learn how to use **relative clauses** to add **important details** and **extra information** to our sentences!

Warm-up Questions

Discuss these questions with us:

1. Describe a friend who always makes you laugh.
2. Think of a city where you would love to live. What makes it special?
3. Do you prefer reading stories that are short and simple, or long and detailed?





Grammar Rules: Relative Clauses

We use relative pronouns (who, which, that, whose, where) to connect ideas.

- **Defining Clauses:** Give essential information to know who or what we are talking about. We do NOT use commas. (Example: The chef who cooked this meal is famous.)
- **Non-Defining Clauses:** Give extra, non-essential information. We MUST use commas! (Example: The Eiffel Tower, which is in Paris, is very tall.) Note: We cannot use "that" in non-defining clauses.



Complete The Sentences

Choose the correct relative pronoun (who, which, where, whose) and decide if we need commas:

1. The cafe _____ we met for the first time has closed down.
2. The manager _____ lives in Tokyo is visiting us next week.
3. The presentation _____ you gave us was incredible!
4. Sarah _____ car is parked outside needs to leave early.



The Global Food Festival

Read the scenario with us:

Our event agency is organizing the annual Global Food Festival. We are reviewing the final details for the vendors, the entertainment, and the special guests. We need to make sure all the information is accurate so our guests have a wonderful time.

Let us look at the event schedule and use relative clauses to describe the plans!



Role-play: Planning the Festival

Let us practice speaking by acting out an event planning meeting.

One of you will be the Senior Event Manager, and the other will be the Assistant Coordinator. We will review the festival details together and connect our ideas using **defining and non-defining relative clauses**. Get ready to plan!



Role-play Part 1: The Guest Chefs

Manager: Have we confirmed the **guest chefs** for the main stage?

Coordinator: Yes. **Chef Antonio**, who runs the **famous pasta restaurant** downtown, will be there **at noon**.

Manager: Excellent. **What about the chef whose bakery won a national award** last year?

Coordinator: She is arriving at **2 PM**. The kitchen equipment, which **she requested yesterday**, is already set up.

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Role-play Part 2: The Music Tent

Coordinator: We need to change the location for the live music.

Manager: Why? Is there a problem with the park where we usually put the stage?

Coordinator: The ground, **which was** flooded by yesterday's rain, is too muddy for the heavy speakers.

Manager: Let us move it to the indoor hall that we reserved as a backup.

Role-play Part 3: The VIP Badges



Manager: Do we have the special badges for the food critics?

Coordinator: The badges that we printed this morning are on the front desk.

Manager: Perfect. The critics, who are writing for the national newspaper, must receive the best service.

Coordinator: Agreed. The tour guide who speaks three languages will greet them at the entrance. Everything is ready!

Review



Let us review what we learned today:

- We use **Defining Relative Clauses** to give essential information without commas (e.g., The city where we live).
- We use **Non-Defining Relative Clauses** to add extra information, and we always separate them with commas (e.g., London, which is very big, has great museums).
- We use pronouns like **who**, **which**, **whose**, and **where** to connect our ideas smoothly.
- Great job practicing your grammar and planning the festival with us today!

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THANK YOU

You've completed the class!

See you next time.