

## 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.



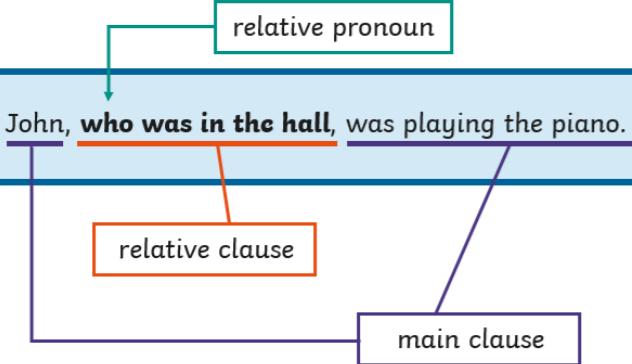
The simple sentence isn't very interesting, is it? Why don't we add some extra information?

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

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



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

Let's make it a multi-clause sentence.

We can add a subordinate clause to the main clause. This is also known as a complex sentence.

The subordinate clause must have its own subject and verb. The subordinate clause does not make sense on its own.



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John was playing the piano.

The second sentence adds some extra 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.

The subordinate clause does not make sense on its own.

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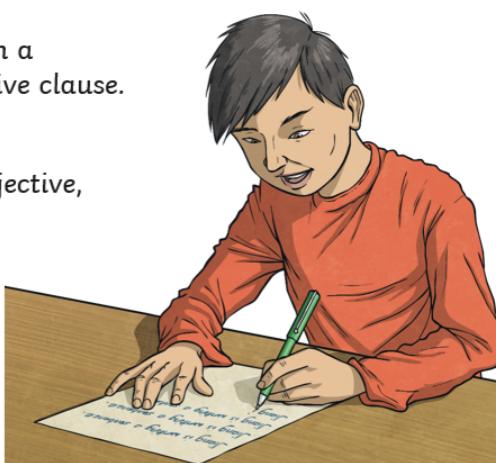


Relative clauses add information to a sentence, using relative pronouns.

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) or a relative pronoun: that, who, whom, whose, which.



Remember to choose an appropriate level of challenge for you. You may complete more than one task if you wish. Use this BBC Bitesize clip on [Relative Clauses](#) to help you revise them.

- I'd like more practise
- I know what to do
- I'd like a challenge

# Relative Clauses

I can use relative clauses.

Choose one phrase from each column (three in total) to make a sentence.

Bee	who was the youngest in the tribe	danced around the fire.
Breath of the Vulture	who was a big man	looked scared.
Bee's dad	whose furs were too tight	was spitting out duck feathers.
Snore of the Rat	who was always showing off	performed the Ritual.
The tent	which was made of furs	was loud and smelly at night.
Bent Tree	whose lion skull mask looked silly	was whacked by a plucked duck.

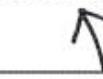
Can you make the silliest sentences? Write them in your books.

Don't forget to use commas to mark your relative clauses!

We use relative clauses to make it clear which person or thing we are talking about or to add more detail. Relative clauses usually start with 'who' or 'which'. For example:

As Miranda plodded through the trees, she peered up at Wyrmstooth

Mountain, which was the highest, pointiest mountain for miles.



relative pronoun



relative clause

Underline all of the **relative clauses** in this extract.

Miranda loved stories of dragons, or worms as they were called in the old days: the Lambton Worm, who was accidentally fished from a river; the Laidly Worm, who was really a cursed princess; the Mester Stoor Worm, who could wrap his body around the entire world; the Lyminster Knucker, who was killed with a poisoned pudding.

*Extract from the Twinkl Originals fantasy story 'The Wyrmstooth Crown'*

Can you add a relative clause to each of these sentences? Don't forget to use 'who' or 'which'.

1. Miranda, \_\_\_\_\_, screamed in terror.
2. Guster the dragon, \_\_\_\_\_, beat his wings as hard as he could.
3. Miranda looked up at the enormous dragon, \_\_\_\_\_.



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Miranda's favourite tale of all was that of the Wyrmstooth Crown, a story of this very valley. As Miranda plodded through the trees, she peered up at Wyrmstooth Mountain, which was the highest, pointiest mountain for miles. It was so sharp, it looked like a dragon's tooth.

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Can you finish these sentences using a main clause and a relative clause? Don't forget to use 'who' or 'which' and at least one comma! The first one is an **embedded relative clause**.

1. Miranda, \_\_\_\_\_, screamed in terror.
2. Guster the dragon, \_\_\_\_\_.
3. The mountain \_\_\_\_\_.

