

Relative Pronouns

A defining relative clause is a clause that gives essential information, details that are necessary in order to understand what or who is being referred to.

A non-defining relative clause is a clause that gives extra – and not necessary – information. We don't need these details to understand who or what is being referred to.

Example: The sailor who we met last night narrated many stories. defining non-defining

Underline the relative clause in each sentence. Identify if the clause is defining or non-defining.

1) Ms. Natalie, who is a teacher, moved to a new house last year.

2) Mark Twain, who is a famous author, is my favorite novelist.

3) Abraham Lincoln, who was the 16th president of the United States, best, abolished slavery.

4) The match that was played last night was a nail-biter.

5) Math, which is a difficult subject for many, requires extra attention.

6) The guide whose car I repaired last week lives in Philadelphia.

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defining non-defining

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	defining	non-defining
Example: The sailor <u>who</u> we met last night narrated many stories.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Underline the relative clause in it. Identify if the clause is defining or non-defining.

1) Ms. Natalie, who is my favorite teacher, was in the classroom last year.

2) Mark Twain, who is my favorite novelist, is my favorite novelist.

3) Abraham Lincoln, who was the best, abolished slavery.

4) The match that was played last night was a nail-biter.

5) Math, which is a difficult subject for many, requires extra attention.

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2) Mark Twain, <u>who</u> is my favorite novelist, is my favorite novelist.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3) Abraham Lincoln, <u>who</u> was the best, abolished slavery.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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5) Math, <u>which</u> is a difficult subject for many, requires extra attention.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
6) The guide <u>whose</u> car I repaired last week lives in Philadelphia.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>