

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 it. Identify if the clause is defining or non-defining.

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

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

3) Abraham Lincoln, who was one of the best presidents in US history, abolished slavery.

4) The match that was held 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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