Name _____ Date _____

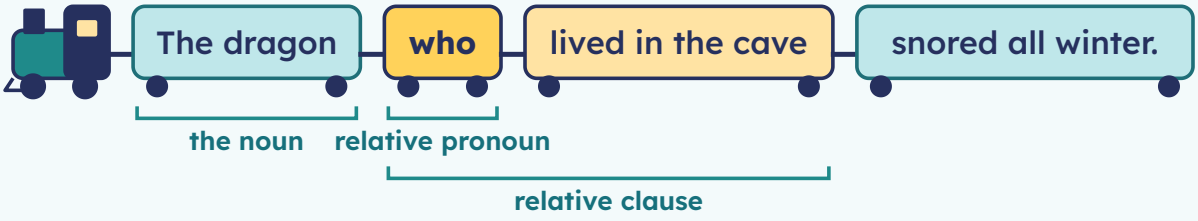
Spotting relative clauses

A relative clause tells us more about a noun.

1 Learn



A **relative clause** is an extra carriage that tells us more about a **noun**. It hooks on with a **relative pronoun**.



The hooks: **who** **which** **where** **when** **whose** **that**

Find the relative clause: The bike which Leo got for his birthday has a bell.

1. Find the hook word, the **relative pronoun**: **which**.
2. Which noun does it tell us more about? Look just before it: **the bike**.
3. Stop where the main sentence starts again: **which Leo got for his birthday**. Check: cover it up. "The bike has a bell." still works.

Flip's tip: "**Who** ate my cake?" asks a question. In "the boy **who** ate my cake", **who** is a relative pronoun: it tells us about the boy.

Warm up: draw a ring round the relative pronoun in each sentence.

1. The girl who sits next to me is called Mia.
2. We found a shell that was shaped like a fan.
3. That is the park where we play football.

Grown-ups: read the train sentence aloud together. Ask "Which noun is the extra carriage about?" Point out that the relative clause sits right after the noun it describes.

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2 Try it together a child and a grown-up, about 10 minutes



Relative clause hunt

You need: a favourite book (a story or an information book) and a pencil.

1. Each choose a page. Hunt for the hook words: **who, which, where, when, whose, that**.
2. For each one, check: does it come just after a **noun** and tell you more about it? (Some are question words, and "that" can also mean "that one".)
3. Read the relative clause aloud, then read the sentence without it. Does it still make a sentence?
4. Copy your two best finds into the table.
5. Now pick a noun from the page and hook on a **new** relative clause of your own.

Noun	Relative pronoun	Relative clause
My own:		

Grown-ups: if your child picks out too many words, ask "Where does the main sentence start again?" The relative clause stops before it does.

3 Practise

A. Underline the relative clause. Then draw an arrow from it to the noun it describes.

1. The man who fixed our roof had a very long ladder.
2. I loved the film that we watched on Friday.
3. The cake which Gran baked was delicious.
4. We visited the farm where my uncle works.
5. Sam has a friend whose mum is a pilot.

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B. Is the word in bold a **relative pronoun**? Tick **yes** or **no**.

1. **Who** left the gate open?	yes ☐	no ☐	2. The boy **who** left the gate open said sorry.	yes ☐	no ☐
3. **That** bag is mine.	yes ☐	no ☐	4. Mia lost the bag **that** she got last week.	yes ☐	no ☐
5. **Where** did you put my coat?	yes ☐	no ☐	6. This is the shop **where** I bought my coat.	yes ☐	no ☐

C. Hook on a carriage. Finish each relative clause to tell us more about the noun in bold.

1. The **teacher** **who** _____ smiled at us.
2. I ate the **apple** **which** _____ .
3. We went back to the **beach** **where** _____ .

D. Write a sentence about an animal with a relative clause in it. Underline the relative clause and ring the relative pronoun.

Challenge

Leo says the relative clause in **"The girl who won the race is my sister."** is **"who won the race is my sister"**. Is he right? Explain how you know. (Cover up his words. What is left?)

I can... Tick when you can.

- ☐ spot a relative pronoun and the relative clause it starts
- ☐ say which noun a relative clause tells us about
- ☐ hook my own relative clause onto a noun