

## Notes

### Relative Clauses

Defining	Non-Defining
It begins with a relative pronoun: *that, who, whom, whomever, where, when, how	It begins with a relative pronoun: <del>that</del> , *which, who, whom, whomever, where, when, why, how
It comes after the noun it describes	It comes after the noun it describes
Gives <b>essential information</b> ; it's necessary for understanding the sentence.	Gives <b>optional information</b>
No Commas	Use Commas

#### Defining relative clause examples:

1. The restaurant where we ate last night was very good. (specifies which restaurant is being referred to) No commas  
No: The restaurant was very good where we ate last night.
2. The car that I bought yesterday is red. (specifies which car is being referred to) NO: The car is red that I bought yesterday.
3. The book that you recommended is excellent. (specifies which book is being referred to) **The book is excellent**-- Specifically, the one you recommended to me.
4. The painting that was hanging in the foyer was stolen. (specifies which painting was stolen. Specifically the one in the foyer, not the living room, bedroom, etc. And there was only one painting in the foyer.)
5. "The painting, which was hanging in the foyer, was stolen." Here, it's just additional info. about the painting. Were there other paintings in the foyer?? *We don't know* if there were other paintings in the foyer.

## Non-defining relative clause examples:

1. The movie, which won several awards, was very entertaining. (provides additional information about the movie)
  - We don't know if other movies won awards.
  - Change "which" to "that" – specifies that there was one particular movie and it won several awards.
2. John's car, which he bought last year, is very expensive. (provides additional information about John's car)
  - OR Defining: John's car that he bought last year is very expensive.  
NO: John's car is very expensive that he bought last year. "that he bought last year" should come after "John's car".
3. Mark Smith, who plays in a band, lives next door to us.
  - OR, Mark Smith, who lives next door to us, plays in a band.
  - The focus is "Mark Smith", so we need to place any relative clauses AFTER "Mark Smith".  
NO: Mark Smith plays in a band who lives next door to us.  
NO: Mark Smith lives next door to us who plays in a band.

### Remember:

- use the correct pronoun
- Place the relative clause (defining and non-defining) after the noun it describes!