

5.5 Defining relative clauses

In defining relative clauses (which give essential information about a person, thing or place) we use the following relative pronouns:

- **who** and **that** to talk about people:

*This is the teacher **who/that** teaches my class.*

*Do you know the girls **who/that** are talking to the PE teacher?*

- **which** and **that** to talk about things:

*Is this the laptop **which/that** you ordered?*

*I'll visit you during the term break **which/that** begins next week.*

- **where** to talk about places:

*We're going to visit the school **where** my mum taught for twenty years.*

*Ella went to a school **where** most pupils were girls.*

The relative pronouns *who*, *which* and *that* usually come after the noun (i.e. the people, thing or place) they refer to. We can omit the relative pronouns *who*, *which* and *that* if they are followed by a personal pronoun or noun.

*We have a timetable (**which/that**) **we** can change.*

We **cannot** omit the relative pronoun if it is **not followed** by a personal pronoun or noun.

*We have a gym **which** has a lot of modern equipment.*

1 Join the pairs of sentences using relative pronouns.

- 1 There is a nice café. We can go there.

- 2 I know a boy. He speaks perfect Chinese.

- 3 McDonald's is a restaurant. It sells hamburgers and chips.

- 4 I'm sure you'll find a job. You're going to love it.

- 5 My son knows lots of websites. You can play online games there.

- 6 Tina is a great sportswoman. She never gives up.

- 7 *Titanic* is a film. I've seen it about ten times.

- 8 This is the man. I saw him in front of the jeweller's.

2 Complete the sentences with relative pronouns **who**, **where** or **which** where necessary.

- 1 We live in a town **doesn't** have a university.
- 2 Do you know the boy **is** dancing with Molly?
- 3 Sam used to live in a country **the** schools are free.
- 4 This is the **teaches** my sister.
- 5 Bath is a small town **has** many historic sites.
- 6 What is the school subject you like best?
- 7 I go to a school **uniforms** are compulsory.
- 8 Is this the girl **lives** in the house opposite yours?
- 9 France is the country Susan loves the most.

3 Choose the correct option. More than one answer may be correct.

- 1 She's the teacher *who / which* lost my homework.
- 2 That's the library *where / which* has lots of good DVDs.
- 3 That's the dog *who / which* stole my bag.
- 4 There's the staffroom *where / which* the teachers go after class.
- 5 Is this the biography *who / which* you wanted to borrow from me?
- 6 There's Jim. He's the person *who / that* can help you.

4 Complete the sentences with **who**, **which**, **where**. Use no pronoun where possible.

- 1 Can you tell me **_____** Mr Smith is? I can't find him anywhere.
- 2 PE is the subject **_____** Adrian loves the most.
- 3 She's the professor of Maths **_____** Anna admires a lot.
- 4 Does Jon know **_____** room we need to go to next?
- 5 I can't show you **_____** Brian is because I've never seen him.
- 6 That's the school **_____** got the best exam results.

5 Correct the mistakes.

- 1 Ms Armstrong is the teacher *which* teaches French.
- 2 Do you know the boys *which* are waiting in the hall?
- 3 This is the lab *we* do science experiments.
- 4 The playground *where* is behind the school is the biggest one.
- 5 That's the girl *isn't* keeping up with her studies.
- 6 I know a shop *you* can get cheap books.
- 7 Amanda is a girl *which* never makes mistakes.
- 8 It's the elementary school *where* my sister goes to.

6 Rewrite the sentences without using **who**, **which**, **that**.

- 1 The book is very interesting. I bought it yesterday.

- 2 The school is very well organised. We visited it last week.

- 3 The library didn't have the book. I wanted the book.

- 4 You've spoken to the man just now. Is the man a friend of yours?

- 5 The exam was difficult. We did it yesterday.

- 6 You borrowed a book from me. Can I have the book?
