

2.5 Grammar

Relative clauses

I can identify and use different types of relative clause.

- 1 In pairs, discuss the advantages and disadvantages of being the firstborn child in a family.
- 2 Read Part 1 of an article about birth order. Are any of the things you discussed in Exercise 1 mentioned?

WHAT BIRTH ORDER SAYS ABOUT YOU

Birth order is the key ¹that can unlock your personality. Here are some generalisations that have come out of research ²carried out over the years.

The firstborn

Parents ³learning to bring up their first child tend to be extremely attentive and protective. Firstborn children, ⁴who have their parents' undivided attention, are responsible, reliable and well-behaved. Firstborns tend to be perfectionists bursting with confidence, ⁵which makes it hard for them to admit when they're wrong.



- 3 Read the GRAMMAR FOCUS. What type of clause are the examples in blue (1–5) in Part 1 of the text?

GRAMMAR FOCUS

Relative clauses

- In **defining relative clauses** you can leave out *who*, *which* or *that* when it is the object of the verb.
Olga is the girl who sits next to me. (Who is the subject of sit.)
Olga is the girl (who) I sit next to. (Who is the object of sit.)
- In **non-defining relative clauses**, which always come after a comma, you cannot leave out *who*, *which*, *where* or *whose*.
Eva is friends with Sam, who I can't stand. (= I can't stand Sam.)
- In **reduced relative clauses** you use a present participle for active verbs and a past participle for passive verbs.
There's a new teacher teaching Year 4. (= ... who is teaching)
The students taught by him are delighted. (= ... who are taught)
- In **comment clauses**, which always come after a comma, you refer to the whole of the main clause using *which*.
Eva is friends with Sam, which I can't stand. (= I can't stand the situation.)

- 4 Read Part 2 of the article and choose the correct options.

The middle child

Middle children, ¹which have been / [Ø] given less attention by their parents, are more independent. Middle children ²which / whose older siblings boss them around feel life is unfair. They often believe their other siblings get all the attention, ³which / that can make them feel left out.

The baby of the family

Parents ⁴which are / [Ø] bringing up their youngest children are more lenient, ⁵which / [Ø] means that last-borns are rarely told off. Youngest children, ⁶that / who have fewer responsibilities, are carefree and easy-going. The baby of the family, ⁷whose / who is used to having things done for them, tends to be bad at making decisions.

The only child

Only children have many of the same qualities as the oldest child, ⁸that / which is not surprising. Only children, ⁹which / who spend more time with adults, will often act older than their age. The typical only child likes being the centre of attention, ¹⁰which / whose sometimes makes them appear self-centred.

- 5 What position are you in your family? Which comments in Parts 1 and 2 of the article do you agree with?
- 6 Rewrite the sentences using reduced relative clauses. Then tick the statements you agree with.
 - 1 Siblings who share a bedroom tend to be less selfish.
Siblings sharing a bedroom tend to be less selfish.
 - 2 Children who have been brought up as the baby of the family are often fussy eaters.
 - 3 Firstborns, who are accustomed to accepting rules, are better behaved at school.
 - 4 Middle-born children, who grow up with a younger and older sibling, can be argumentative.
 - 5 Only children who spend a lot of time alone tend to be very creative.
 - 6 The youngest child, who is used to being the centre of attention, usually has a good sense of humour.
- 7 Complete the sentences with *who*, *which*, *that*, *where*, *whose* or *–* if you can leave out the relative pronoun. Then tick the sentences that are true for you.
 - 1 My sister always leaves her clothes on the floor, _____ is very annoying!
 - 2 In my family, the person _____ cooks the most delicious food is my grandmother.
 - 3 I'm jealous of people _____ parents let them do whatever they want.
 - 4 The only place _____ I can get some peace at home is in the bathroom!
 - 5 My mother, _____ thinks I'm still a baby, worries when I go out late.
 - 6 I've got several cousins _____ living in the same town as me.
 - 7 We live in a house _____ built over 100 years ago.