

A **relative clause** is a type of subordinate clause that has the following characteristics:

1. It is **tensed**. I.e, the verb in a relative clause is either past or present tense (unless it is a modal auxiliary verb). Tensed clauses are also called *inflected* or *finite*. *Tensed* or *finite* contrast with *untensed* or *non-finite*; infinitives or participles are not inflected for tense.
 - the man who came to dinner
 - *the man who for you to see

2. It is an **adjective** clause. I.e, it modifies some noun phrase (its **head noun**), and identifies it by giving additional information about it. Relative clauses follow their head noun phrase.

3. It **refers** to its head noun. I.e, the head noun appears in the sentence from which the relative is formed.
 - the man whom Bill saw
 - *the man whom Bill saw Mary

4. The reference to the head noun in the relative clause appears in a **relative pronoun**. This pronoun may be a *wh*-word (though not all *wh*-words may occur, and some have limited distributions), or *that*, or (in certain cases) may be omitted completely.
 - the ball which/*what/*whether/that/∅ Bill threw to me
 - the day when/*which/*what/that/∅ we had lobster
 - the man who/*which/*what/that/*∅ came to dinner

5. The relative pronoun must appear at the beginning of the relative clause (though in certain cases other material may precede it, and in others the relative pronoun itself may be Zero [∅]; i.e, it may be absent or deleted).
 - the ship which/that/∅ we sailed in
 - the ship in which/*that/*∅ we sailed
 - the reports which/that/∅ the lettering on the covers of is purple
 - the reports of which/*that/*∅ the lettering on the covers is purple
 - the reports on the covers of which/*that/*∅ the lettering is purple

1. the man who came to dinner
2. the man who(m) you saw
3. the man you saw
4. the man (that) you want to come to dinner
5. the man (that) you want to see
6. the man (that) you said came to dinner
7. the man (that) you said you saw
8. the man (that) I told you came to dinner
9. the man (that) I told you I saw
10. the man (that) I told you wanted to come to dinner
11. the man (that) I told you I wanted to come to dinner

Each of the noun phrases above contains a relative clause modifying and identifying *the man*. What is the input sentence that the relative clause is formed from in each case?

Indicate with a caret (^) the position in each relative clause above where *the man* appears in the input sentence.

Are other relative pronouns possible in each case?

The parentheses around *that* indicate that it is optional in some cases; how should we characterize these cases?

Given the following sentences, form relative clauses, if possible, like the ones above, using the underlined noun the man.

12. I told you that she liked the man.
13. I asked the man to sit at our table.
14. I want to try to begin to get to know the man.
15. I heard the story that she married the man.