

Pupil book answers

Schofield & Sims Grammar and Punctuation

Grammar 6

Relative clauses

Remember

A **relative clause** gives more information about a **noun**. When the information is essential to your meaning because it helps to clarify **which** noun, no comma is used to separate it from the main clause.

The hydra was a monster **that had many heads**.

When the information just gives an extra detail, one or two commas are used to separate it from the main clause.

Apollo, **who was the son of Zeus**, was responsible for the sun.

The hydra was a many-headed monster, **which was killed by Hercules**.



Try it

- 1 Complete each sentence by adding a relative clause that helps to clarify the noun with essential information.

It was the village chief **who had three daughters**.

The stomach is the place **where food is digested**.

Kavita was a beautiful princess **who lived in India hundreds of years ago**.

He had these enormous eyes **that stared back at you**.

Harvest is the time **when farmers gather in their crops**.

- 2 Complete each sentence by adding a relative clause with extra information that is not essential.

I could see the serpent's head _____, **which was sticking up out of the trees**.

The caretaker _____, **who will retire this year**, has worked here for thirty years.

Kieran Cooper revisited his old school _____, **which brought back lots of happy memories**.

The artefacts _____, **which were very interesting**, came from the museum.

Mrs Khan _____, **whose daughter is in my class**, gave a cookery demonstration.

Sentence practice

Write **two** sentences about an escaped tiger. Use both types of relative clause in your sentences.

The tiger that escaped from the zoo has been seen in the park. The tiger, which could be dangerous, was seen close to the children's play area.

These are just examples of relative clauses that could be used to clarify the noun. Compare the pupils' answers, discussing how they specify the person, thing, place or time. Answers for factual sentences are likely to be similar to those shown, although there could be variation [e.g. Harvest is the time when people celebrate gathering in their crops.].

These are just examples of extra information that could be added to the main clause. Compare the pupils' answers to see what extra information has been added.

Where the relative clause is added as a parenthesis, check that another comma has been added after it.

These are just examples. The relative clauses could be used to give detail about places or people rather than the tiger [e.g. A zoo keeper who has been specially trained ...].

Check that commas [or brackets or dashes] have been used to indicate a parenthesis or non-essential clause added at the end of a sentence.