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French department

Module: English

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What is a relative pronoun?:

A **relative pronoun** is a word that is used to connect an independent clause to a relative clause. Relative pronouns are meant to provide more information about the subject it relates to. Relative pronouns include **who**, **whom**, **whose**, **that**, **why**, **when**, **where** and **which**.

Relative pronoun Usage Example:
Who Relates to people (subject) → The man who lives next door to me is called James.
Whom Relates to people (object) → I don't know the names of my other neighbors whom i've never met.
Which Relates to animals and objects → Did you see the letter which came today ? → Animals which have hair and fur are mammals
Why Refers to reason? → Why did you choose me ?
When Refers to time → There isn't a day when I don't think about you.
Where Refers to places → I know a restaurant where the food is excellent.
Whose Refers to possession → I spoke to a friend whose uncle is a lawyer.
That Relates to people, animals and things → The book that I gave you is new. → I had a friend that could speak six languages. → Giraffes are tall animals that live in africa.

Functions of relative pronouns:

- They introduce the relative clause, which is 'a subordinate' or 'a dependent' (the part of a sentence that gives more information about the noun).
- They connect the clause to the rest of the sentence.
- Relative pronouns can be found in sentences with more than one clause.
i.e: The thing **which** frightened Mary **that** surprised John

Important Points:

- Relative pronoun is the head of a relative clause.
- Each relative clause has a subject and a verb.
- Relative clause always goes after the nouns it is describing.

Exercise: Complete the sentences below with the appropriate relative

1. We always like people _____ speak the truth.
2. Can you tell _____ pen this is?
3. This is Natasha _____ I was praising.
4. The boy _____ I met in Delhi stays near our house.
5. This is the house in _____ John Keats lived.
6. These are the saplings _____ my mother and I planted together.
7. The teacher punished the students _____ were shouting.
8. I don't think there's anyone _____ doesn't like chocolates.
9. Are these the people about _____ you were talking?
10. The car _____ my uncle brought is quite expensive.
11. Do you know _____ car is parked in front of our gate?
12. I found the documents _____ I had been looking for.
13. A teacher _____ helps all children is considered good.
14. I know the one _____ did this.