

Relative Clauses

Introduction

TASK

Look at the example sentences. Do you notice any differences between a and b?



1. Example
 1. There was a bird which flew past my window.
 2. The bird, which was about 2 metres long, scared me a lot.
2. Example
 1. At the bus stop there was a man who was singing loudly.
 2. This man, who also didn't wear any trousers, annoyed many of the people there.

In the two a-sentences the information in the relative clauses is necessary for a complete understanding of the sentences. In the b-sentences the relative clauses add extra information that is not necessary to understand the rest of the sentence.

a: defining relative clauses b: non-defining relative clauses

Defining and non-defining relative clauses



A **defining relative clause** adds necessary information to the main clause. Without it, the main clause would be incomplete. There are no commas.

A **non-defining relative clause** adds extra (zusätzlich) information to the main clause. It is not necessary and the main clause is complete without it. There are commas between the main clause and the relative clause.

Videos



Video



Video



Video



Video



Video

Exercises

- [Bestimmende und nicht bestimmende Relativsätze](#)
- [Relativpronomen who, which, whose und that](#)
- [Relative Clauses \(Relativsätze\)](#) - Explanation and exercises
- [Relative clauses](#) - Explanation and exercises

Contact Clauses

- [Contact clauses - Relativsätze ohne Relativpronomen](#)
- [Bildung von Contact Clauses](#)