

# What are Non-defining Relative Clauses?

## Worksheet

Non-defining relative clauses add extra (optional) information about an already-clear noun, enclosed in commas. They use who, which, or whose; removing the clause does not change the core meaning.

## Questions

1. Which sentence has a non-defining relative clause?

- A) The student who scored highest passed.
- B) My friend John, who is a lawyer, will help.
- C) The book that arrived yesterday is new.
- D) The teacher who teaches English is here.

2. Which sentence is correct?

- A) My brother, which works in London, is coming.
- B) My brother, who works in London, is coming.
- C) My brother that works in London is coming.
- D) My brother, the one which works, is coming.

3. True or False: You can omit 'which' in this sentence: 'The report, which was urgent, arrived late.'

- A) True
- B) False (non-defining clauses always keep the pronoun)
- C) True (only if it's the object)
- D) False (but only for defining clauses)

4. Which relative pronoun is NOT used in non-defining clauses?

- A) who
- B) which
- C) that
- D) whose

5. Add extra info in a non-defining clause: 'My sister works here.' (She lives in Paris.)

6. Non-defining with 'which': 'The conference was informative.' (It lasted three days.)

7. Non-defining with 'whose': 'Albert Einstein died in 1955.' (His theories revolutionized physics.)

8. Define: What is a non-defining relative clause?

9. Define: Why do non-defining clauses have commas?

10. Define: Can you omit 'who' or 'which' in non-defining clauses?

## Answer Key

1. B) My friend John, who is a lawyer, will help. — Option 2 has commas around 'who is a lawyer' — extra info about an already-clear person (John).
2. B) My brother, who works in London, is coming. — 'brother' is a person, so 'who' not 'which'. Commas = non-defining (extra info).
3. B) False (non-defining clauses always keep the pronoun) — In non-defining clauses, the relative pronoun is always kept. 'The report, was urgent, arrived late' is wrong.
4. C) that — 'that' is NEVER used in non-defining clauses — only in defining ones. Non-defining uses who, which, whose.
5. Noun is clear: 'My sister' (you know who) Add extra: 'My sister, who lives in Paris, works here.' Test: Remove clause — 'My sister works here' still makes sense. Commas required
6. Clear noun: 'The conference' Add detail: 'The conference, which lasted three days, was informative.' Test: Remove it — 'The conference was informative' is complete. Commas required
7. Clear subject: 'Albert Einstein' Add fact: 'Albert Einstein, whose theories revolutionized physics, died in 1955.' Test: Removing the clause leaves a complete sentence. Commas required
8. A clause that adds extra (optional) info to an already-clear noun, enclosed in commas, using who/which/whose.
9. Because the info is extra/optional — the noun is already identified; removing the clause doesn't change core meaning.
10. No — unlike defining clauses, you must always keep the relative pronoun in non-defining clauses.

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