

Relative Clauses with Prepositions?

Worksheet

In relative clauses with prepositions, the preposition can appear at the end of the clause (informal, common in speech) or move to the front before the relative pronoun (formal, more common in writing).

Questions

1. Which is INFORMAL?

- A) The lawyer to whom we paid the fee
- B) The lawyer we paid the fee to
- C) The lawyer in which we paid the fee
- D) The lawyer which we paid the fee

2. Fill the formal version: 'The idea ____ we agreed ____ is brilliant.'

- A) which, to
- B) that, on
- C) on which, --
- D) in what, --

3. Which uses a preposition with a relative clause?

- A) The book I read was great.
- B) The book on which I read was great.
- C) The information which I relied is true.
- D) The information on which I relied is true.

4. Can you use 'that' with a fronted preposition?

- A) Yes, always
- B) Only in informal speech
- C) No — use whom/which instead
- D) Only with 'about'

5. Combine using both forms: 'That's the team. We played against them.'

6. Use formal structure: 'The building has historic value. The city was founded from it.'

7. Rewrite informally: 'The person with whom I discussed this is a specialist.'

8. Define: Where can the preposition go in a relative clause?

9. Define: When is preposition fronting used?

10. Define: Can you use 'that' with a fronted preposition?

Answer Key

1. B) The lawyer we paid the fee to — Option 2 has the preposition 'to' at the end — informal and natural. Option 1 is formal.
2. C) on which, -- — Formal: preposition + which/whom. 'on which we agreed' (preposition in front, no second 'on'). 'Agree on something' → 'on which'.
3. D) The information on which I relied is true. — 'Rely on' — option 4 uses 'on which' (formal + correct verb phrase). Option 3 is wrong (verb doesn't take a preposition).
4. C) No — use whom/which instead — Fronted prepositions require 'whom' (people) or 'which' (things). 'that' cannot follow a preposition.
5. Verb + preposition: 'played against' Informal: 'That's the team we played against.' Formal: 'That's the team against which we played.' Both work; informal is more common in speech.
6. Verb + prep: 'founded from' = 'founded from which' Informal: 'The building the city was founded from has historic value.' Formal: 'The building from which the city was founded has historic value.' Formal often preferred in academic writing.
7. Formal prep: 'with whom' → informal: 'who ... with' Informal: 'The person I discussed this with is a specialist.' Omit 'whom': 'The person I discussed this with' is natural.
8. Either at the END (informal, common) or FRONT before whom/which (formal, academic).
9. In formal and academic writing; preposition at end is more common in everyday speech.
10. No — fronted prepositions require 'whom' (people) or 'which' (things), never 'that'.

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