

Relative Clauses: Acting Like an Adjective

A relative clause is a clause that describes a noun and uses a relative pronoun. The relative pronouns are *that*, *who/whoever*, *whom/whomever*, *whose*, *which*, and sometimes *when*, *where*, *what*, and *why*.

Two sentences can be combined by using a relative clause.

Example: Here is my dog. This dog likes to play.

Combining the two with a relative clause: Here is my dog that likes to play.

The relative pronoun in the sentence is *that*. The relative clause modifies, or describes, the *dog*.

Below are sets of sentences. Rewrite each set making just one sentence with a relative clause.

▶ 1. The man is my father. He is standing by the window.

▶ 2. My sister is smart. She makes all As.

▶ 3. Sam likes hamburgers. He likes the hamburgers his mother makes.

▶ 4. Kara runs fast. She is in my class.

▶ 5. We're going to the opera. It may be boring.

▶ 6. The car belongs to his neighbor. It is parked in the driveway.

▶ 7. The editor of the newspaper is new to the area. He wrote an unpopular editorial.

▶ 8. The old house burned down last week. No one lived there.

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Answers: Actual student answers may vary. Example of correct answers.

- ▶ 1. The man is my father. He is standing by the window.

The man who is standing by the window is my father.

- ▶ 2. My sister is smart. She makes all As.

My sister, who is smart, makes all As.

- ▶ 3. Sam likes hamburgers. He likes the hamburgers his mother makes.

Sam likes hamburgers that his mother makes.

- ▶ 4. Kara runs fast. She is in my class.

Kara, who is in my class, runs fast.

- ▶ 5. We're going to the opera. It may be boring.

We're going to the opera, which may be boring.

- ▶ 6. The car belongs to his neighbor. It is parked in the driveway.

The car that belongs to his neighbor is parked in the driveway.

- ▶ 7. The editor of the newspaper is new to the area. He wrote an unpopular editorial.

The editor of the newspaper, who is new to the area, wrote an unpopular editorial.

- ▶ 8. The old house burned down last week. No one lived there.

The old house where no one lived burned down last week.