

RELATIVE CLAUSES

TYPE 1: DEFINING R.C.

Study these two examples:

- a) The man *who lives next door* is friendly.
- b) Where are the eggs *that were in the fridge*?

- These are examples of a defining relative clause and they tell (**define / specify**) us which thing or person the speaker means.
- they cannot be left out because the sentence would not make sense
- there are **no commas** (,)
- relative pronoun: for people – **WHO, THAT**
for things – **WHICH, THAT**

When who/that is the object of the relative clause, it can be left out:

- a) The man (who) I wanted to see was away.
- b) The dress (that) Ann bought does not fit her.

WHAT = the thing that

- a) Did you hear what I said?
- b) I won't tell anyone what happened.

COMMON MISTAKE!!!

Everything what he said was true. (NOT WHAT but THAT!!!)

Other pronouns: WHOSE, WHERE

We saw the people whose car had broken down.

The hotel where we stayed was horrible.

TYPE 2: NON-DEFINING R.C.

Study these examples:

- a) Tom's father, *who is 78*, goes swimming every day.
- b) The house at the end of the street, *which has been empty for years*, has just been sold.

- These are examples of a non-defining relative clause and they give us some **extra information** about the thing or person mentioned in the sentence.
- They do not tell us which person or thing speaker means, we know it.
- They can be left out.
- there are **commas** (,)
- relative pronoun: for people – **WHO**
for things – **WHICH**

Other examples:

- She told me her address, which I wrote down.
- Last night we went to Ann's party, which we enjoyed very much.
 - these refer to something mentioned in the first part of the sentence, they comment on it

Martin, whose mum is Spanish, speaks English and Spanish fluently.