

Reduced Relative Clauses

Relative Clauses

Relative clauses, including *who*, *that*, and *which*, are used to give essential information about someone or something. A relative clause usually comes immediately after the noun it describes. Much like adjectives, relative clauses modify nouns, so they are also known as adjective clauses. For example:

- *The man who works at Costco lives in Seattle.*
- *I gave a book, which was written by Hemingway, to Mary last week.*

In the above relative clause examples, "who works at Costco" modifies—or provides information about—the "man" who is the sentence's subject. In the second sentence, "which was written by Hemingway" modifies the object "book."

Reduced Relative Clauses, Different Types

Reduced relative clauses refer to the shortening of a relative clause. To be more specific, relative clause reduction refers to removing a relative pronoun and could happen in different ways:

- Reduce to an Adjective
 1. Remove the relative pronoun.
 2. Remove the verb (usually "be," but also "seem," "appear," etc.).
 3. Place the adjective used in the relative clause **before** the modified noun.

Examples:

- *The children who were happy played until nine in the evening.*
- *The happy children played until nine in the evening.*

- Reduce to an Adjective Phrase
 1. Remove the relative pronoun.
 2. Remove the verb (usually "be," but also "seem," "appear," etc.).
 3. Place the adjective phrase after the modified noun.

Examples:

- *The product, which seemed perfect in many ways, failed to succeed in the market.*
- *The product, perfect in many ways, failed to succeed in the market.*

- Reduce to a Prepositional Phrase
 1. Remove the relative pronoun.
 2. Remove the verb "be."
 3. Place the prepositional phrase after the modified noun.

Examples:

- *The box, which was on the table, was made in Italy.*
- *The box on the table was made in Italy.*
- Reduce to a Past Participle
 1. Remove the relative pronoun.
 2. Remove the verb "be."
 3. Place the past participle before the modified noun.

Examples:

- *The desk, which was stained, was antique.*
- *The stained desk was antique.*

- Reduce to a Past Participle Phrase
 1. Remove the relative pronoun.
 2. Remove the verb "be."
 3. Place the past participle phrase after the modified noun.

Examples:

- *The car, which was purchased in Seattle, was a vintage Mustang.*
- *The car purchased in Seattle was a vintage Mustang.*

- Reduce to a Present Participle
 1. Remove the relative pronoun.
 2. Remove the verb "be."
 3. Place the present participle phrase after the modified noun.

Examples:

- *The professor who is teaching mathematics will leave the university.*
- *The professor teaching mathematics will leave the university.*

- Some action verbs reduce to the present participle ("-ing" form) especially when the present tense is used:
 1. Remove the relative pronoun.
 2. Change the verb to the present participle form.
 3. Place the present participle phrase after the modified noun.

Examples:

- *The man who lives near my home walks to work every day.*
- *The man living near my home walks to work every day.*