Relative Clauses

A picture guide for Year 5. Relative clauses are one of the new grammar points this year.

A relative clause gives extra information about a noun.
It starts with a **relative pronoun** and sits right after the noun it describes.

Zoom in on the noun

The **boy** **who scored the goal** was delighted.



The relative pronouns

Word	Use it for	Example
who	people	The girl **who** won the race was thrilled.
which	things and animals	The cake, **which** was chocolate, vanished fast.
that	people or things	The bike **that** I wanted was sold.
whose	belonging to	The boy **whose** bag was lost went home.
where	places	This is the park **where** I learnt to skate.
when	times	I remember the day **when** it snowed in May.

Common slip: "The man ~~which~~ delivered our parcel" - people need **who** (or that).

Relative Clauses: commas

The commas are where most marks are lost - the scissors test helps.

Commas or no commas? Try the scissors test

✂ Extra information - use commas

My sister, **who lives in Leeds** , is a nurse.

Cut it out: *My sister is a nurse.* Still makes sense, so the clause is just extra. Put commas round it.

📌 Needed to say which one - no commas

The pupils **who finished early** could go out.

Cut it out: *The pupils could go out.* Which pupils? The meaning has changed, so no commas.

The hidden relative pronoun

The book that I borrowed was great.

"That" (or "which") can be left out: *The book I borrowed was great.* It is still a relative clause.

Where can it go?

In the middle of the sentence (with a pair of commas if it is extra) or at the end:

We visited Rome, **which is in Italy** .

Your turn: underline the relative clause

1. The dog that lives next door barks all night.
2. Mrs Ali, who teaches Year 5, loves poetry.
3. This is the house where Grandad grew up.
4. The girl whose kite broke started to cry.

For parents: SATs often ask children to "underline the relative clause" or "add a relative pronoun".

Answers: 1. that lives next door 2. who teaches Year 5 3. where Grandad grew up 4. whose kite broke