

## Defining relative clauses

A 'clause' is part of a sentence. A defining relative clause makes it clear who or what we are talking about in a sentence. It gives essential information.

*The man who lives next door had an accident.*

Relative clauses begin with relative pronouns:

*who* for people; *which* for things and animals, and *whose* for possessions.

After place, area, room, etc. we use *where*.

After time, day, year, etc. we use *when*.

We don't use *what* as a relative pronoun.

*The vase that I broke was very expensive.* (NOT: *The vase what I broke was very expensive.*)

In less formal and spoken English we often use *that* instead of *who* or *which*.

*The police caught the man that robbed the bank.*

We can leave out the pronouns *who*, *which* or *that* if they are the object of the relative clause.

*The film which I saw was called Heroes.*

*The film I saw was called Heroes.*

*The boy who she met was nice.*

*The boy she met was nice.*

## The passive

We make the passive with the verb *to be* + past participle.

*James is paid a lot of money.*

*Are you being followed?*

*We were given a new car to drive.*

*She has been told this before.*

In **active sentences**, the person (or thing) who does the action comes first.

*The man kissed the baby.*

In **passive sentences**, the person (or thing) affected by the action comes first and is the main focus.

*The baby was kissed by the man.*

The person (or thing) who did the action is often not known or not the main focus.

*The programme has been shown since 1959.* (The focus is on the programme, not who has shown it.)

We use *by* to include the person (or thing) who did the action in a passive sentence.

*The book was written by Faulks.*

The passive often sounds 'impersonal'. It is used in formal English and often in the news.

*The President was asked to resign.* (It isn't important who asked him to resign.)

## Past Simple and Past Continuous

The Past Continuous form: *was/were* + *-ing*

We use the **Past Continuous** to talk about what was happening at a particular moment in the past.

*What were you doing at 10 o'clock last night?*

We use the **Past Simple** for complete, finished actions in the past.

When the Past Simple and Past Continuous are used together, the Past Continuous refers to the longer, background action or situation. The Past Simple refers to the shorter action or main event that happened to interrupt it.

*I was walking through the park when the storm began.*

We use the **Past Continuous** for temporary actions and situations.

*I was living in Barcelona last summer.*

We use the **Past Simple** for longer or permanent situations.

*I lived in Berlin for ten years when I was a child.*

We do not usually use the continuous form with 'state' verbs such as *like*, *want*, *know* and *understand*.

### Key vocabulary

#### Internet

IM (instant messaging) online website

#### Film

comedy docu-drama horror film romantic film thriller

#### Television

channel commercial digital documentary reality/chat show live presenter producer programme satellite screen soap (television) set viewers

#### Describing films and TV

annoying boring entertaining exciting gripping incredible inspiring moving nauseating nonsense unrealistic unwatchable

#### Newspapers

arts/business section current affairs gossip human interest story sports pages

#### News collocations

go on strike/on holiday make a discovery/a profit come into fashion/into money win a race/a competition commit a crime/suicide develop an idea/a product have a duty/plastic surgery cause trouble/an accident perform a song/a play break a record/a promise