> **Relative clauses**
> … are **subordinate** clauses that provide **additional information** about a noun. They are added to a main clause (noun phrase) but are non-essential parts of a sentence. Relative clauses add meaning, but if they are removed, the sentence will still function grammatically. They cannot stand on their own and are introduced by relative pronouns. There are two main types of relative clauses, *defining and non-defining*.

Defining (restrictive) relative clause

This type of relative clause is an **integral part of the message** conveyed by the main clause. The information provided in a defining relative clause is necessary for complete identification of the noun or thing in a specific context. The clause is **not separated** from the rest of the sentence by commas because, if this type of clause is removed, the noun phrase would either make no sense or would have a different meaning.

The next book that I want to read is „The Life List".

The restrictive clause exemplified above forms part of the description or circumstances of the book being referred to.

Non-defining (non-restrictive) relative clause

The information a non-defining relative clause expresses is presented as seperate and **secondary** to that in the main clause. It gives us more information about a person or thing that **has already been identified or defined**. If this type of relative clause is removed from the sentence, we lose some details, but the overall meaning of the sentence remains the same. They are set off from the rest of the sentence with **commas**.

My uncle, who is an excellent cook, is thinking of opening a restaurant.

"My uncle" is already a clearly defined noun, so the non-restrictive relative clause above simply gives extra information about his competences, rather than defining him.

Shortening relative clauses

Subject pronoun	Object pronoun
If the **verb** is placed after the relative pronoun, the relative pronoun is a *subject pronoun*. - necessary, **cannot be omitted** E.g *I told you about the woman who lives next door.* - can be replaced by a **participle** E.g. *I told you about the woman living next door.*	If the **verb** is **not** placed after the relative pronoun, the relative pronoun is an *object pronoun*. - can be **omitted** (only in defining/restrictive relative clauses) E.g. *This is the bike (which) I bought yesterday.*

① **It's your turn! Build relative clauses. Do you need commas? Can you leave out the pronoun?**

a) The woman is in the garden. She is wearing old dirty clothes.

_____

b) Mrs Weber is a maths teacher. Her favorite topic is algebra.

_____

c) The man works in the shop. He lives next door.

_____

d) My bag has red and white stripes. It is quite heavy.

Game: Pyramid

Preperation

To prepare, create a list of categories for which you can come up with 5 examples. For example *Things in your fridge* (milk, meat, eggs, butter, cucumber) or *Professions* (babysitter, detective, fire fighter, hair dresser, gardener). Gather those categories in a chart with their examples beneath. Then print out the chart, cut each example and collect the snippets, categorized and folded, in different boxes.

Prepare a slide (Power Point) or a big poster, on which the categories (but **not** the examples) can be seen from the class. To give meaning to the name of the game you can arrange the categories in the shape of a pyramid.

Things in your fridge	Things that are red
milk	tomato
eggs	blood
butter	rose
salami	lips
cucumber	fire

Things that start with *sh*	Professions
shy	babysitter
shampoo	fire fighter
ship	detective
sheep	hairdresser
shoplifter	policeman

Things People are afraid of	Things you need on summer vacation
spider	sun screen
snake	sun glasses
darkness	flip flops
heights	towel
clowns	bikini

To Play

Seperate your class into 2 different teams (Team A & Team B). Set up the poster or the slide. Team A starts by choosing the first *clue giver*, the rest of the team are the *guessers*. The *clue giver* chooses a category from the slide or the poster and picks one snippet out of the corresponding box. By **using relative clauses**, the *clue giver* has to explain the example on the snippet to his/her teammates, the *guessers*. If someone of the *guessers* has an idea of what the *clue giver* is talking about, they shout out the guess. If the guess is right, the whole team gets one point. If not, they are allowed to get more hints and make 3 more guesses. If Team A has guessed the solution or already made 4 guesses, it's Team B's turn. The first team which has 7 points wins.

Have fun!