



Clauses

Relative Clauses: Relative clauses add important or interesting information to a sentence. Types of relative clauses include defining, non-defining, contact and participle clauses

Defining Clauses

These are clauses that add essential information to a sentence. (Example: The doctor who works at this hospital is very thorough. – The clause “who works at this hospital” specifies which doctor is being spoken about.)

Non-Defining Clauses

These clauses add interesting information to a sentence but the information is not necessary to make the meaning of the sentence clear. (Example: My parents, who live in Ontario, visited me for Christmas. – The clause “who live in Ontario” is just an interesting detail.)

Contact Clauses

These clauses contain relative pronouns that can be omitted without changing the meaning of a sentence. (Example: The girls that I spoke to are from Brazil. – The pronoun “that” can be left out of the sentence without consequence.)

Participle Clauses

In many cases, relative clauses can be replaced by participle clauses to make sentences more concise. (Example: The file which is saved on my computer has confidential information. – The phrase “which is saved on my computer” can be shortened to “saved on my computer”.)