

Relative Clauses: watch the video and follow along with the script. Fill in the gaps.

https://youtu.be/Ht_Lb2djZ4o

Hey, guys! This is Alex. Thanks for clicking and welcome to this lesson on relative clauses. Now, relative clauses are largely useful for English ^{1*****}. They are used in spoken English as well, but most of the time the examples that you're going to see today are very useful for writing. So, if you're doing your TOEFL exam, if you're writing an essay for university – these are some tips on how to use relative clauses.

Now, on the board we have two sentences and these are the two ^{2*****} of relative clauses. So, the first example says, “My sister who is from Chicago visited me last weekend,” and the second one says, “My sister, who is from Chicago, visited me last weekend.” Now, you see that the only difference between these two sentences is – the ^{3*****}, right? Is there a difference in meaning between these two sentences when we put commas in this relative clause? So, this is the relative clause: “my sister, who is from Chicago, ...” You are giving more ^{4*****} about your sister, just like you're giving more information about your sister here. What is the difference in meaning between these two sentences? In this one, do I have one sister, or do I have many sisters? Well, in this case, this actually means that I have ^{5*****} sisters and you are referring to, or I am referring to the one who is from Chicago. “My sister who is from Chicago visited me last weekend.” Okay, so this is called an ^{6*****} clause. Okay, in some grammar books, in some writing books this will also be called a ^{7*****} clause. Okay, so it

all means the same thing: it's just a different way of calling it – identifying or restrictive. Okay, the reason we call this an identifying clause is because it ^{8*****} the subject. So, my sister is the subject. I am giving more information about my sister and I am saying, “Well, my sister who is from Chicago visited me last weekend.” So, this is actually the complete ^{9*****}, okay. In this case, do I have one sister, or do I have more than one sister? “My sister, [comma] who is from Chicago, [comma] visited me last weekend.” In this situation I only have ^{10*****} sister. The reason we have ‘who is from Chicago’ – well, there is no reason. We don't have to put this in this sentence for this sentence to make sense. You could say, “My sister visited me last weekend,” and the meaning would be the ^{11*****}. So, this is just extra information. Okay, so this is an ^{12*****} clause. This is a non-identifying clause. Okay, so just to review what we've done so far: we have “My sister who is from Chicago visited me last weekend,” – I am providing direct information about which sister I'm talking about. This is the complete subject “my sister who is from Chicago” ^{13*****} which sister I'm talking about. I have ^{14*****} than one sister. I am talking about the one from Chicago. In this case, I said “my sister” and I'm giving more information, so this is a non-identifying clause. This is not ^{15*****} information – it's extra information about my sister, my one sister, right. And I'm putting it in-between the full sentence here: “My sister visited me last weekend,” but I want to give you more information about my sister, so I put *comma*, use a non-identifying clause, “who is from Chicago,” and complete the sentence with “visited me last

weekend”. The ^{16*****} are very important in non-identifying clauses.

Okay, now, let's look at the relative ^{17*****} that we use with different types of relative clauses. Okay, now we're going to look at the relative pronouns that we use in relative clauses. So, here we have some sentences. We're going to go ^{18*****} them and underline the relative pronouns. So, here: “The girl who won the lottery was on TV.” Easy ^{19*****} to identify the relative pronoun “who” -- “the girl who won the lottery was on TV.” “The teacher ^{20*****} I spoke to didn't like me.” Whom. “The movie ^{21*****} I saw last weekend was excellent.” Which. And: “The car ^{22*****} I bought is red.” “The car that I bought is red.” “James Cameron, ^{23*****} movies are popular, is a great action director.” Okay, so these relative pronouns, these ones specifically – *who*, *whom*, and *whose*... When we want to give more information about people, okay, we use *who*, *whom*, and *whose*. We use ^{24*****} when the subject does the action. Okay, “The girl *who* won the lottery.” *She* won the lottery. *She* played it. So, we use *who* for person doing the action. We use *whom*... “The teacher *whom* I spoke to didn't like me.” *I* spoke to the teacher, the teacher ^{25*****} the action. At the bottom here, we have “whose movies are popular”. The movies *of* James Cameron. Right, so we use *whose* for ^{26*****}. Okay. *Which* and *that* we use for things. Okay, so, *the movie*, *the car* – you can say *the table*, *the school* – anytime you're talking about things, we use ^{27*****} or *that*. So, these are used for things. Now, the funny thing about *whose* is that we also use it to talk about possessives for things. Okay,

we don't have a possessive for things like ‘*whiches*’. Okay, so, for example, if you want to say that a movie had a lot of excellent actors and you want to say that the movie made fifty billion dollars, which is a lot of money. Actually, that's not realistic. Let's say, fifty million dollars. Okay, you can say, “The movie, ^{28*****} actors were all excellent, made fifty million dollars.” Now, I know it doesn't really sound comfortable, and this is why I said that relative clauses are ^{29*****} used in the written word.

Okay, there's one more quick thing that I have to talk about with you in regards to *which* and *that* and identifying and non-identifying clauses. Okay, so for *which* and *that* specifically with identifying and non-identifying clauses, there are a couple of things you need to be aware of. The first sentence: “I saw a car which was white,” or “I saw a car that was white.” For an identifying clause you can use *which* or *that*, okay. ^{30*****} are okay. However, if you are adding a ^{31*****} clause, where you are giving ^{32*****} information that is not necessary, after a comma you must use ^{33*****}. So, for example: “She went into the apartment.” This is the sentence. I want to give more information about the apartment: “She went into the apartment, ^{34*****} had blue walls.” Okay, so if you are using a non-identifying clause. Non-identifying clause... you must use ^{35*****} when you are giving more information about a thing. Okay, I know this is a lot of information, so, please check out engvid.com and do the quiz under this video. Good luck, guys, and take ^{36*****}!