

RELATIVE CLAUSES

DEFINING AND NON-DEFINING RELATIVE CLAUSES

Relative clauses: definition

A **relative clause** is the part of a sentence beginning with a relative pronoun (**who/which/that/whom/whose**)* or an adverb (**when/where**).

*In certain cases, this pronoun can be omitted.



Where is the relative clause in this sentence?



There are two types:

Can you notice any differences in the meaning?

The boys in my class who wear glasses are attractive.

The boys in my class, who wear glasses, are attractive.



Relative clauses: Defining (especificativas)

- *The boys in my class who wear glasses are attractive.*

• These relative clauses give you **the information you need to understand the sentence.**

• There are **no commas.**

• If you **take the relative clause away**, the sentence doesn't make sense.

• In this kind of sentences, **WHO/WHICH** can be replaced by **THAT**.

These ones are called **Defining Relative Clauses.**

Relative clauses: Non-defining (explicativas)

- *The boys in my class, who wear glasses , are attractive.*

• These relative clauses give **extra information**.

• They are always **written between commas**.

• If you **leave out the relative clause between commas**, it still makes sense.

• In this kind of sentences, **WHO/WHICH can't be replaced by THAT**.

These ones are called **Non-defining Relative Clauses**.

Basic relative particles:



WHO

- FOR PEOPLE
- *She is the person who helped me.*



WHICH

- FOR THINGS/OBJECTS
- *This is the book which I bought last week.*



WHERE

- FOR PLACES
- Madrid is the city, where I have lived for 39 years.

Basic relative particles:



THAT

- FOR PEOPLE/THINGS (in defining clauses)
- *Pete is the boythat.../ This is the car that...*



WHEN

- FOR TIME
- *I met him the day when it was my birthday.*

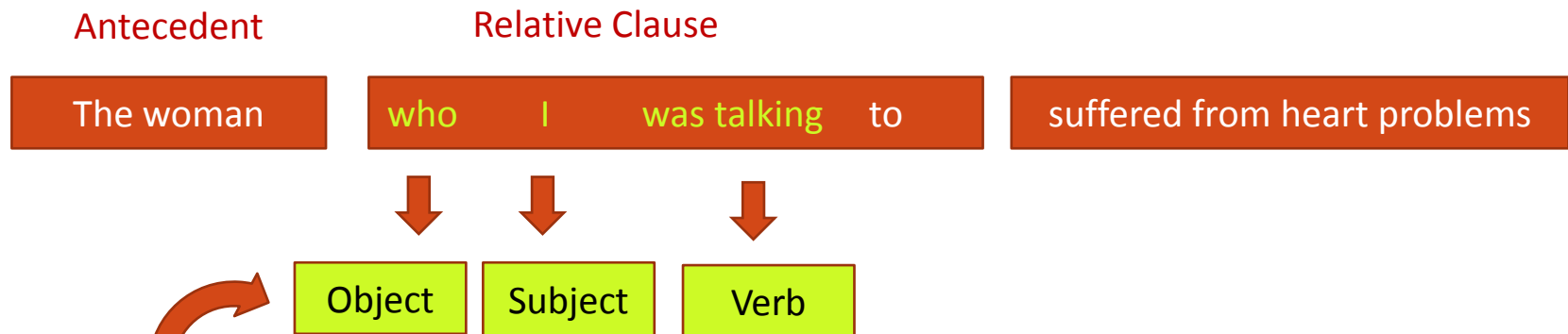
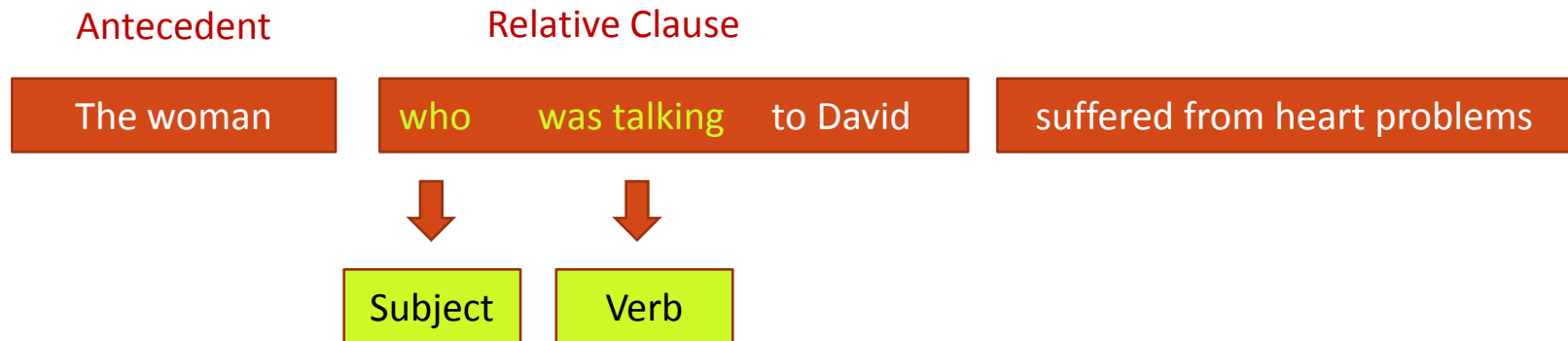


WHOSE

- POSSESSION
- *My pupils, whose homework is never done, will fail the exam.*

Subject or object?

WHO/WHICH/THAT/WHEN
can be omitted when they
work as object in Defining
Relative Clauses.



When the relative
pronoun is the object,
it can be left out.

The woman I was talking to suffered from heart problems.

Now, it's your turn...

- The hotel **where** we stayed was very good for the price.
- The books, **which** I had ordered over the internet, took nearly three weeks to arrive.
- My parents, **who** were born in north Wales, moved to London to find work.
- The employee to **whom** you refer is no longer working here.
- My neighbour, **whose** son is studying in Germany, is quite impolite.
- This is the area **where** they are building the new school.
- That's the time **when** he left university.
- Those are the friends **who** they went to the theatre with.
- The people **who/that** I stayed **with** were very kind.
- She gave me the key, **which** I put in my pocket.

“Whom” is used after prepositions.