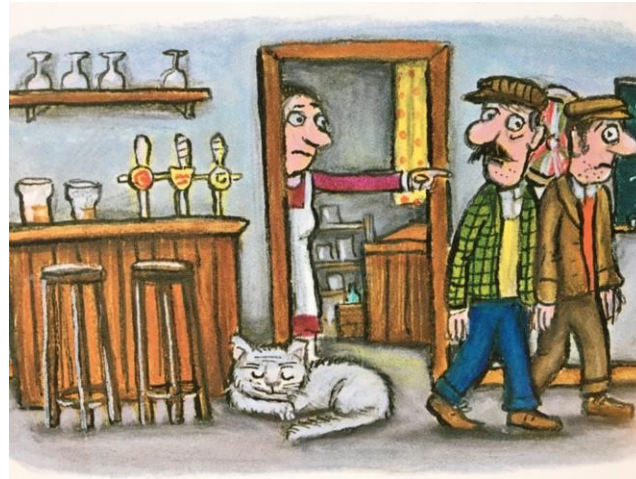


Relative Clauses



Relative Pronouns

Relative pronouns are used differently to other **pronouns**.
They introduce a **relative clause**.

Relative Pronouns

who, which, where, when, whose, that



Relative Pronouns

They can *relate* the **clause** to a **noun**.



Old Deuteronomy, **who** *was sleepy*, licked his tail.

Old Deuteronomy licked his tail **which** *he coiled towards him*.

Old Deuteronomy, **whose** *tongue was very rough*, licked his tail.

Old Deuteronomy licked the bite **that** *the mouse had given him*.

Relative Pronouns

who, which, where, when, whose, that

Relative Clauses

Relative clauses can also *relate* to a **whole clause**.

The cat caught the canary.

The cat caught the canary,
which annoyed its owner.

This is a **clause**.

It is not the *cat which annoyed the owner*. It is the catching of the canary. The **relative clause** relates to the whole clause.





Spotting Relative Clauses

Relative clauses are a type of **subordinate clause**.

main clause

subordinate clause

Gumbie slept on the bed which was a very comfortable one.

The **main clause** is the main part of the sentence. It makes *sense by itself*.

The **subordinate clause** *adds meaning* to the main clause; it has less weight.

When the **subordinate clause** is a **relative clause**, it adds meaning to a **noun** in the **main clause** or to the **whole main clause**.

Revision

Spotting Relative Clauses



Old Deuteronomy stretched in the sunlight which was warm and comforting.

Gumbie sat on the hat which she had found on the hall table.

*Identify the **main clause** and **relative clause** in each sentence.*

*What **noun** is the relative clause relating to?*

Answers

main clause

subordinate clause

Old Deuteronomy stretched in the sunlight which was warm and comforting.

main clause

subordinate clause

Gumbie sat on the hat which she had found on the hall table.

*Identify the **main clause** and **relative clause** in each sentence.*

*Which **noun** is the relative clause relating to?*

Punctuating Relative Clauses

When the **relative clause** comes after the **main clause**, we do not usually separate the clauses with a **comma**.

main clause

subordinate clause

Old Deuteronomy ignored the noise which was coming towards him.

A **comma** would create an *unnecessary break* in the sentence.



Punctuating Embedded Relative Clauses

Sometimes the **relative clause** is *embedded* in the **main clause**.

main clause

The mice ate the cheese.



Tell me more about **The mice**.

The **relative clause** needs to be next to the **noun**: the mice.

Punctuating Embedded Relative Clauses

Sometimes the **relative clause** is *embedded* in the **main clause**.

main clause

The mice

main clause

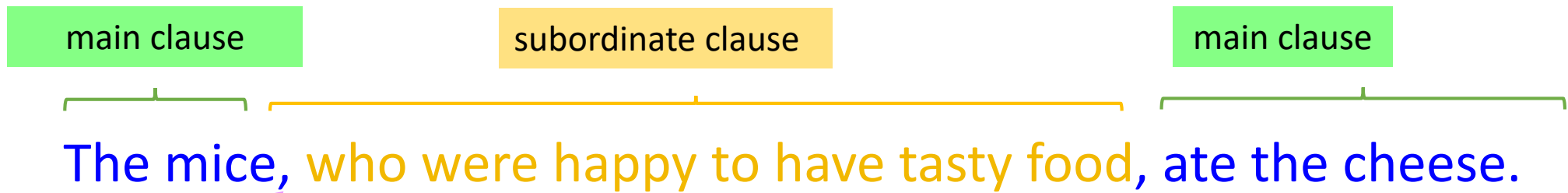
ate the cheese.

Tell me more about **the mice**.

The **main clause** splits to make space...

Punctuating Embedded Relative Clauses

Sometimes the **relative clause** is *embedded* in the **main clause**.



Commas separate the clauses because the **relative clause** breaks up the **main clause**.

Tell me more about **the mice**.

The **main clause** splits to make space...
for the relative clause.

Embedding Relative Clauses

main clause

Gumbie slept on the papers.

The dog skirted around Old Deuteronomy.

The bed looked tempting to the cat.

The mouse ate all the cheese and bacon.

*Read these **main clauses**.
Embed a **relative clause** to say
more about the **noun**.
Remember to use commas.*



What meaning did you add to the clauses?

main clause

,

subordinate clause

,

main clause

Gumbie, who was tired after a busy night, slept on the papers.

The dog, who did not want to disturb his sleep, skirted around Old Deuteronomy.

The bed, which had been made that very morning, looked tempting to the cat.

The mouse, whose stomach had been rumbling, ate all the cheese and bacon.

Check your punctuation.



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