

RELATIVE PRONOUNS

A relative pronoun refers back to things that have already been mentioned in a sentence.

WHO WHICH WHERE WHEN
THAT WHOSE

The ship that Charles Darwin sailed on was called the Beagle.

Relative pronoun referring back to the ship, telling the reader who was on it.

RELATIVE CLAUSES

A relative clause is a type of subordinating clause. It is connected to the main clause using a relative pronoun. It describes or gives extra information about a noun.

The sailors reached the island **where the tsunami hit.**

This gives more information about the island. Commas are not needed as this information is required to tell the reader which island they had reached (a defining clause).

Darwin, **who was a famous British scientist,
observed plants and animals.**

More information about Darwin is added. Commas are needed as we already know who the noun is (Darwin) so the relative clause is not needed to understand the sentence (a non-defining clause).