

Nelson Mandela, who was born in... Relative clauses 4 (of 7) ★★

IN GBs 134-136, we talked about RESTRICTIVE clauses. Now we're talking about NON-RESTRICTIVE relative clauses (or defining and non-defining, if you prefer).

What's the difference?

- 1 A restrictive clause says who or what you're talking about. (Used all the time)
- 2 A non-restrictive clause doesn't say who or what you're talking about, but it does say something more about them. (Used in writing and formal speaking)



Nelson Mandela, who was born in 1918, became president of South Africa in 1994.

This is non-restrictive, because we all know who Nelson Mandela is, but his date of birth will be new information for many people.

We mostly use these clauses in writing, and the commas are important:

The general's sister, who lives in London, is rich. (he has one sister)

The general's sister who lives in London is rich. (he has more than one sister)

This splendid book, which is the pride of my collection, is worth over \$1000.
(We can see the book)

The book (that) I bought yesterday cost me \$10.
(The book is not here)

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See GBs 138-9 (next two weeks) for RELATIVE PRONOUN as SUBJECT and OBJECT.

Quick check

We need commas in two of these sentences only. Which ones?

- 1 My wife __ who lives in Paris __ is called Monica.
- 2 The man __ I spoke to yesterday __ was French.
- 3 Anyone __ who comes through the door __ is welcome.
- 4 Winston Churchill __ who was a great politician __ won a Nobel Prize in 1953.
- 5 Here's a list of the books __ you should read.

