Academic Writing in English Relative pronouns

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Are…..

- **who/whose/where/which/that**
- **They introduce a relative clause.**

- Saturn, *which* is encircled by rings, is much larger than the Earth.
- The college *where* he studied has been closed down.
- The teacher *who* interviewed me was a specialist in ancient music.
- Dr Yamada, *whose* lecture I attended, presented the prizes.
- He wrote about the area *that* I was interested in.

- Which relative pronouns are used for:

a) places? b) people? c) things? d) possession?

There are two kinds of relative clauses:

► a) those which **define the subject**. In this case the relative clause must be included. The college **where he studied** has been closed down.

► b) those which give **additional details**. Here the relative clause could be removed and the meaning would still be clear:
Saturn, **which is encircled by rings,** is much larger than the Earth.

► In type (b) the relative clause is surrounded by commas (,) brackets ( ) or dashes (–).

- In **defining clauses both** *that* **and** *which* can be used with things:

- Toyota is a Japanese company *that/which* makes cars.

- But with clauses that provide **additional detail only** *which* can be used:

- Volkswagen, *which* is a German company, is a major car producer.

- **In defining clauses where the relative pronoun is the object its use is optional:**

- She applied to the university (*that/which*) her tutor had recommended.

- The course (*that/which*) I wanted to take was not offered this semester.

- The tutor (*who*) she wanted to meet was away for two months.

- When the relative pronoun is the subject it must be included:

- The scientists *who* discovered DNA worked in Cambridge.

Who, whom, whose

- **"Who" is a Subject Pronoun**

- "Who" is a subject pronoun like "he," "she" and "we" in the examples above. We use "who" to ask which person does an action or which person is a certain way.

- Examples:

- **Who** made the birthday cake?

- **Who** is in the kitchen?

- **Who** is going to do the dishes?

- **"Whom" is an Object Pronoun**

- "Whom" is an object pronoun like "him," "her" and "us." We use "whom" to ask which person receives an action.

- Examples:

- **Whom** are you going to invite?

- **Whom** did he blame for the accident?

- **Whom** did he hire to do the job?

- **"Whose" is a Possessive Pronoun**
- "Whose" is a possessive pronoun like "his," "her" and "our." We use "whose" to find out which person something belongs to.
- Examples:
- **Whose** camera is this?
- **Whose** dog is barking outside?
- **Whose** cell phone keeps ringing?