Pre-intermediate Unit 8a

Defining relative clauses 1: *who, which, that, whose, where, when*



Man: Oh look! It's that actor whose films we love!

Woman: Are you sure?

Man: Yes, he's the one who's always in films with Julia Roberts.

Woman: I don't recognise him.

Man: Don't you remember his film about the bank robbery which goes wrong? It was hilarious!

Woman: Oh, I know the one. So, is that his girlfriend?

Man: Yes, but it isn't the same girlfriend that he brought last year.

Woman: Really? What happened!

Man: Well, the newspapers say he wouldn't answer the phone one day when she called him.

Presentation

Use *who, which, that, whose, where* and *when* to introduce defining relative clauses. These clauses give us essential information about people, things, possessions, places or a time.

- Use *who* for people: *He's an actor **who** makes science-fiction films.*
- Use *which* for things: *I only watch films **which** make me laugh.*
- Use *whose* for possessions: *That's the actor **whose** new film we saw last week.*
- Use *where* for a place: *That's the town **where** we met.*
- Use *when* for a time: *He wouldn't answer the phone one day **when** she called him.*

You can also use *that* for people or things instead of *who* or *which*:

*It isn't the same girlfriend **that** he brought last year.*

*It isn't the same girlfriend **who** he brought last year.*

Exercises

1 Match 1–6 to a–f.

1	He's the person	☐	a	who's always late for work.
2	He only does jobs	☐	b	job I want.
3	I saw him at the weekend at that café	☐	c	when we normally break for coffee.
4	Ten thirty is the time	☐	d	which he likes doing.
5	That's the manager whose	☐	e	works in accounts!
6	He came to the office to see the new girl that	☐	f	where we often go after work.

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2 **Complete the conversation with the words in the box. Then listen and check.**

when	where	which	who	whose



A: This is the villa [1] ..... we stayed. It was next to the sea.
B: Looks nice.
A: It was. And these are the people [2] ..... car we borrowed. They were very generous.
B: Yes, they were. Who's this?
A: He's the man [3] ..... showed us round the island. He was a really good tour guide. One day we went to a parade [4] ..... always takes place at the end of the summer. Here's a photograph of it. It's a special day [5] ..... everyone dresses up and walks through the streets.

3 **Which answers in exercise 2 can you replace with *that*?** .....

4 **Complete the sentences with *who, which, whose, where* or *when* and the phrases in the box.**

controls the traffic	new song we like so much	stores information	you can relax	you feel a little special



1 It's something .....



2 It's a place .....



3 That's the band .....



4 It's someone .....



5 It's the one day in the year .....

5 **Complete these sentences so that they are true for you.**

1 A good teacher is someone who .....
2 The best part of the year is the period when .....
3 Home is a place where .....
4 I usually read books which .....
5 ..... is a singer whose music I really like.

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