Grammar Reference

Grammar Reference: Optional and required relative pronouns

Relative clauses modify the nouns that precede them. This information further defines or gives essential information about the noun it is modifying. Relative pronouns introduce these relative clauses.

When a relative pronoun is the subject of a clause, the relative pronoun is required. These subject relative pronouns include; **that, which, or who.**

Example:

People *who* are concerned with the greenhouse gases on the environment are buying organic products.
Meditation programs *that* offer fun group workouts are on the rise.

If the relative pronoun shows **possession**, it is also required. The possessive relative pronoun is **whose.**

Example:

More auditors *whose* supervisors allow it are opting to work from home.

When a relative pronoun is the object, usually it is optional. These object relative pronouns include that, which, who, or whom.

Example:

Electric cars are an option *that* more people are choosing.
Some schools now offer classes for children *who* they once did not allow because of their age.

Note: Informal English often uses "*who*" instead of **whom**. However, when the relative pronoun "*who*" is preceded by a preposition, we must use **whom**. Similarly, when "*that*" is preceded by a preposition, we must use **which**.

Example:

No one can live in that village now except indigenous people **to whom** special permits have been given.

My parents' generation stood for certain beliefs **against which** my generation has rebelled.

Grammar Reference: *As if*, *as though*, *as*, *the way*, and *like*

As if and ***as though*** are often used to introduce a clause that describes opinions about behavior or feelings. They often follow verbs such as: *act, behave, feel, look, seem*, and *talk*.

Example:

Still I feel **as though** something is wrong.

She looked **as if** she had seen something terrible.

"***As***" and "***the way***" are used to introduce clauses that express a comparison.

Example:

I'm thinking about finding a volunteer opportunity in the province **as** some of my friends have.

My little brother started styling his hair with spikes **the way** I used to.

The word "***like***"can be used instead of ***as if***, ***as though***, ***as***, or ***the way***, but this is very informal English.

Example:

It seems **as though** the job was made for me.

It seems **like** the job was made for me.