



PUC SPEL Online is a web-based English language tutoring system developed by PUC to help you improve your English vocabulary, grammar, and pronunciation. You can access the online courses from your own computer with an internet connection and at any time you are available. The course provides convenience and flexibility for you to practice your English independently outside of your classrooms with the support of online tutors.

Grammar Reference

a. Reduce relative clauses

In **defining clauses**, we can omit the relative pronoun in the position of object.

Examples: The boy *who / whom / that you don't like much* wants to talk to you.
The boy *you don't like much* wants to talk to you.

Notes: In many relative clauses, *who / that* + the verb *have* can be replaced by "*with*".

Examples: A person *who / that has a good voice* could be a good TV journalist.
A person *with a good voice* could be a good TV journalist.

In China, people *who / that have more than two children* will pay more taxes.
In China, people *with more than two children* will pay more taxes.

Non-defining relative clauses with *be* can be reduced in the same way as defining relative clauses.

Examples: The invitation, *which was sent by Thida*, should please her mother.
The invitation, *sent by Thida*, should please her mother.

My brother Ben, *who lives in Hong Kong*, is an architect.
My brother Ben, *living in Hong Kong*, is an architect.

Note: In **non-defining** sentences, you can't either omit "*the relative pronoun*" or use "*that*".

Example: My mother, *who / whom ~~that~~ you met yesterday*, wants to talk to you.
My mother *you met yesterday* wants to talk to you.

We can use **participles** when reducing the sentence:

1. Present Participle "**V-ing**" (simultaneous)

Examples: We stood on the bridge *which connects the two halves of the city*.

We stood on the bridge *connecting the two halves of the city*. (Present Participle)

2. Past Participle "**V₃ or being V₃**" (passive simultaneous)

Examples: The boy *who was attacked by a dog* was taken to hospital.

The boy *attacked by a dog* was taken to hospital. (Past Participle)

When the verb "**have**" meaning possession, we can omit relative pronoun and "**have**" and use **with (+)** or **without (-)**.

Examples: Students *who have enough math and English skills* will be admitted.

Students *with enough math and English skills* will be admitted.

People *who don't have their ID cards* cannot get in.

People *without their ID cards* cannot get in.

b. Non-defining relative clauses as sentence modifiers

You can use **non-defining relative clauses** with **which** to make a comment about an entire sentence.

Examples: They have three puppies, *which mean there's usually a lot of puppy fur on their clothes*.

He gave me the letter, *which I read immediately*.

Non-defining relative clauses can be used as sentence modifiers and can contain almost any verb. Some of the most

common ones are *surprise, depress, encourage, suggest* (that), *contribute to*, and *result in*.

Note that the verbs that describe emotion must be followed by an object.

Examples: Her husband tried to repair a leak with aluminum foil, *which has resulted in a ruined silk carpet*.

My teacher praised my English today, *which encourages me to study harder*.

We have started making our small family business, *which has contributed to financial savings*.