



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

Relative clauses and noun clauses

A relative clause can occur in the subject or the object of a sentence.

Examples: Something ***that annoys me*** all the time is people ***who occupied two seats on a crowded bus.***
The thing ***that she can't stand*** is colleagues ***who leave their cell phones ringing on the desk.***

Some sentences use a relative clause and a noun clause beginning with a question word such as ***when***.

Examples: The thing ***that I dislike*** is ***when colleagues spread gossip about each other in the office.***
One thing ***that bothers him*** is ***when his employees are late to the meeting.***

In an object relative clause, a relative pronoun (***who, that,*** or ***which***) is optional. Relative pronouns are only required when they function as the ***subject*** of a relative clauses.

Examples: She told her classmates a secret behind my extraordinary success. I had told her that secret.
She told her classmates a secret behind my extraordinary success ***that I had told her.***

My brother gave his wife a packet of chocolate biscuit. I gave him that packet of chocolate biscuit.

My brother gave his wife a packet of chocolate biscuit ***that I gave him.***

In a subject relative clause, a relative pronoun (***who, that,*** or ***which***) is required because it functions as the subject of the relative clause.

Examples: I have a roommate. She never prepares the bedroom.

I have a roommate *who never prepares the bedroom.*

He is a doctor. He graduated from University of California, Berkeley.

He is a doctor *who graduated from University of California, Berkeley.*

b. Simple and complex indirect questions

Simple indirect questions use statement word order and begin with expressions such as *I wonder, I'd like to know, or I can't understand.*

Example: Why doesn't teacher mark my homework?
I wonder why teacher doesn't mark my homework.

Complex indirect questions also use statement word order. In addition, they begin or end with clauses or phrases with *be.*

Examples: Will I be able to pay with a credit card?
My major concern is whether I'll be able to pay with a credit card.
How can anyone afford them?
How anyone can afford them *is beyond me.*

If the beginning clause of an indirect question is in statement word order, the sentence is a statement and ends with a period.

Examples: *She's curious about* why they didn't complain to the lessor.
John's not sure who is responsible for writing a meeting minute.
The big question is if we can get the shopping malls to obtain a massive discount.

If the beginning clause of an indirect question is in question word order, the sentence is a questions and ends with question mark.

Examples: ***Do you have any idea*** whether I must have a visa to visit China?
Could you tell me where I can go to pay my parking ticket?
Don't you wonder how a place with such poor service stays in business?