ENG HUB

PEOPLE WHO CHANGED THE WORLD

Relative clauses



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FAMOUS FACES



Look at the photos. Discuss in pairs: Who are these people? What are they famous for? Which person do you admire the most? Why? Are there any people here who you don't know well?



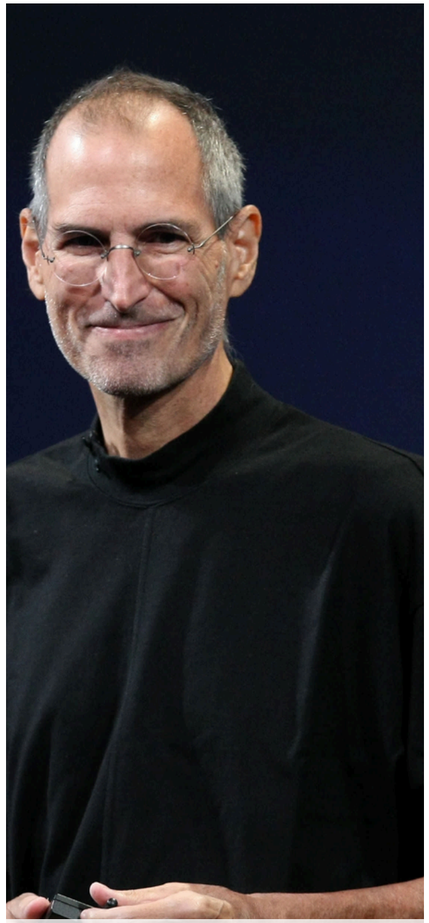
Marie Skłodowska-Curie, radioactivity scientist



Elon Musk, space innovator



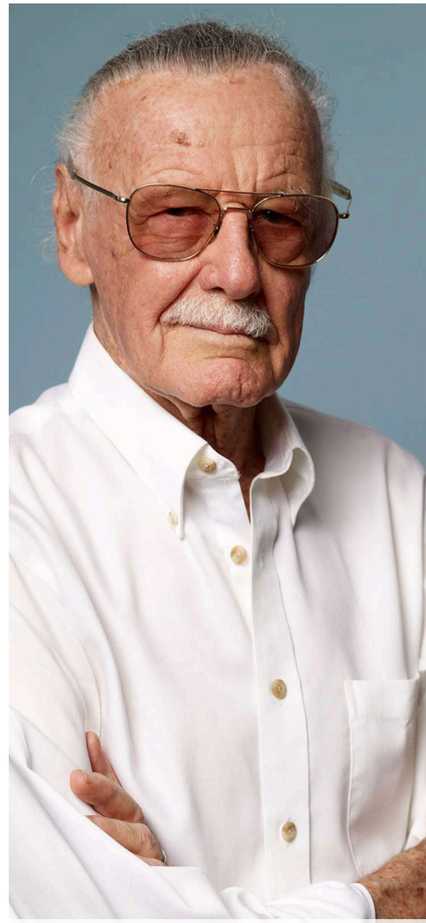
Greta Thunberg, climate activist



Steve Jobs, Apple co-founder



J.K. Rowling, Harry Potter writer



Stan Lee, Marvel comic writer

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WHO CHANGED THE WORLD?

Read the texts. Who do you think each description is about? Discuss your ideas with a partner.



?

This is an entrepreneur who created companies that changed electric cars and space travel. He leads projects that aim to send humans to Mars in the future. He works in industries where new technology develops very quickly. This entrepreneur, who is known for ideas which many people consider ambitious or unrealistic, often attracts a lot of attention.

?

This is a scientist who discovered radioactivity and completely changed modern science. She conducted research that helped develop new medical treatments, especially in cancer care. The scientist, whose work won two Nobel Prizes, became one of the most important scientists in history and is the only person who won Nobel Prizes in both Physics and Chemistry.

?

This is a businessman who co-founded a company that changed personal technology. He created products that people use every day, such as smartphones and computers. He worked in a place where creativity and innovation were very important. This businessman, whose ideas combined technology and design, influenced modern life.

?

This is a young activist who fights for climate action around the world. She started a movement that inspired millions of young people to protest. She began her activism at a time when many people were not paying attention to climate change. This activist, whose speeches often criticise world leaders, has become famous worldwide.

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HOW IT WORKS

Look at the sentences on the left and use them to complete the rules.

1. This is a scientist who discovered radioactivity.
2. He is known for ideas which many people consider ambitious or unrealistic.
3. She conducted research that helped develop new medical treatments.
4. He works in industries where new technology develops very quickly.
5. She began her activism at a time when many people were not paying attention to climate change.
6. She was the first person whose work won two Nobel Prizes.

Defining relative clauses

We use a defining relative clause to give essential information about a person or thing. This information tells us which person or thing we mean.

We use:

- _____ → people
- _____ → things
- that → people or things
- _____ → places
- _____ → time
- _____ → possession

We can leave out **who/which/that**, but only when they are the object of the clause.

Example:

He created products that people use every day. → He created products people use every day. ("that" = object, so we can omit it.)

When the relative pronoun is the subject, we must keep it.

Example:

This is a scientist who discovered radioactivity.

❌ *This is a scientist discovered radioactivity ("who" = subject → cannot be removed)*

We **use/don't use** commas with defining relative clauses.

We can use _____ instead of who/which:

He created products that people use every day.



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HOW IT WORKS

Look at the sentences on the left and use them to complete the rules.

1. This entrepreneur, who is known for ideas which many people consider ambitious or unrealistic, often attracts a lot of attention.
2. This businessman, whose ideas combined technology and design, influenced modern life.
3. The scientist, whose work won two Nobel Prizes, became one of the most important scientists in history.
4. This activist, whose speeches often criticise world leaders, has become famous worldwide.



Compare:

- *A scientist who discovered radioactivity changed science. (essential → defining)*
- *Marie Skłodowska-Curie, who discovered radioactivity, changed science. (extra → non-defining)*

Non-defining relative clauses

We use a non-defining relative clause to give extra information. The sentence is still clear without this information.

We use:

- _____ → people
- _____ → things
- where/when/whose (less common but possible)

Examples:

- *Steve Jobs, whose ideas changed technology, influenced modern life.*
- *Silicon Valley, where many tech companies are based, is very famous.*

We **use/don't use** commas with non-defining relative clauses.

We **can/can't** use "that" with non-defining relative clauses.

❌ Steve Jobs, that created Apple, changed technology.

✅ Steve Jobs, who created Apple, changed technology.

Quick check! Ask yourself:

Is the information necessary? → defining

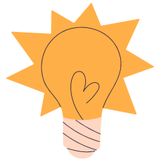
Is it extra? → non-defining

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TRY IT OUT!

Choose the correct alternative for each sentence.



1. The scientist _____ discovered penicillin changed medicine forever.	which	who	where
2. The invention _____ changed communication the most is the internet.	who	where	that
3. The person _____ ideas changed the world is still remembered today.	who	whose	that
4. The woman _____ book influenced millions of readers is a famous author.	whose	which	who
5. The year _____ humans first walked on the Moon changed history.	where	which	when
6. The company _____ developed the first smartphones changed modern life.	who	that	whose
7. The people _____ fight for human rights often risk their lives.	which	who	where
8. The technology _____ helps people communicate instantly is used worldwide.	whose	that	when
9. The organisation _____work supports education in poor countries is very important.	whose	who	where
10. The place _____ important scientific discoveries are made is often a laboratory.	which	when	where

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BUILD YOUR SKILLS

1. Add commas where necessary. Decide if the relative clause is defining or non-defining.

1. Steve Jobs who co-founded Apple changed modern technology.
2. The scientist who discovered insulin helped save millions of lives.
3. Marie Skłodowska-Curie who won two Nobel Prizes is one of the most famous scientists in history.
4. The company that produces electric cars is expanding quickly.
5. Elon Musk who leads SpaceX often talks about life on Mars.
6. The people who work on climate projects are trying to solve global problems.
7. Greta Thunberg who started a global movement motivates young people.
8. The invention that changed communication forever was the internet.



2. Combine the sentences using a relative clause. Decide if the clause should be defining or non-defining.

1. Tim Berners-Lee invented the World Wide Web. He made information available to everyone.

_____

2. A team developed a mobile app. The app helps people track their health.

_____

3. Malala Yousafzai speaks about education. She won the Nobel Peace Prize.

_____

4. The company created the first personal computers. The company changed modern technology.

_____

5. The woman wrote a book. The book inspired people around the world.

_____

6. The engineer designed a new system. The system reduced air pollution.

_____

7. The writer published a novel. Her ideas influenced modern society.

_____

8. The organisation helps refugees. Its work is known worldwide.

_____

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GUESS THE PERSON

Work in pairs or small groups. Choose a person from the list, don't say the name. Describe the person using relative clauses. Try to use at least 2 relative clauses: one defining and one non-defining. Your partner listens and guesses who it is. When your partner guesses correctly, change roles.

🔬 Science & Innovation

- Marie Skłodowska-Curie – radioactivity scientist
- Albert Einstein – relativity physicist
- Nikola Tesla – electrical inventor
- Isaac Newton – gravity scientist
- Charles Darwin – evolution scientist
- Stephen Hawking – theoretical physicist

💻 Technology & Business

- Elon Musk – tech entrepreneur
- Steve Jobs – Apple co-founder
- Bill Gates – Microsoft founder
- Tim Berners-Lee – web inventor
- Larry Page – Google founder
- Jeff Bezos – Amazon founder

🌍 Activism & Social Change

- Greta Thunberg – climate activist
- Malala Yousafzai – education activist
- Rosa Parks – civil rights activist
- Martin Luther King Jr. – civil rights leader
- Mahatma Gandhi – independence leader

🏆 Sport & Culture

- Stan Lee – Marvel creator
- J.K. Rowling – fantasy author
- Serena Williams – tennis champion
- Cristiano Ronaldo – football player
- Usain Bolt – one of the fastest runners
- Walt Disney – animation creator

Starting:

- *This is a person who...*
- *He/She is someone who...*
- *This is a person whose...*

Defining clauses (to help guess):

- *...who changed...*
- *...who created...*
- *...who works on...*
- *...that helped...*
- *...whose work/ideas...*



Non-defining clauses (extra info):

- *He/She, who..., is...*
- *He/She, whose..., became...*
- *His/Her work, which..., changed...*

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FIX THE WORLD

Optional task

Work in pairs or small groups. Choose one problem. Discuss how to solve it. Think about what kind of people, inventions, places or organisations can help. Describe your ideas using relative clauses. Try to use at least 3 relative clauses, including one defining and one non-defining. Prepare a short explanation. Present your ideas to the class.

Problems (choose one):

- *climate change*
- *pollution*
- *lack of education*
- *poverty*
- *plastic waste*
- *fake news*
- *overuse of technology*
- *health problems*
- *lack of clean water*
- *traffic in big cities*

Giving ideas:

- We need people who...
- We need a system that...
- We need a place where...
- We need organisations whose...
- We need a time when...

Adding extra information (non-defining):

- This solution, which..., can help...
- These people, who..., can make a difference.
- This idea, which..., is very effective.
- This organisation, whose..., is very important.

Explaining purpose:

- ...that helps people to...
- ...which makes it easier to...
- ...where people can...
- ...who are able to...

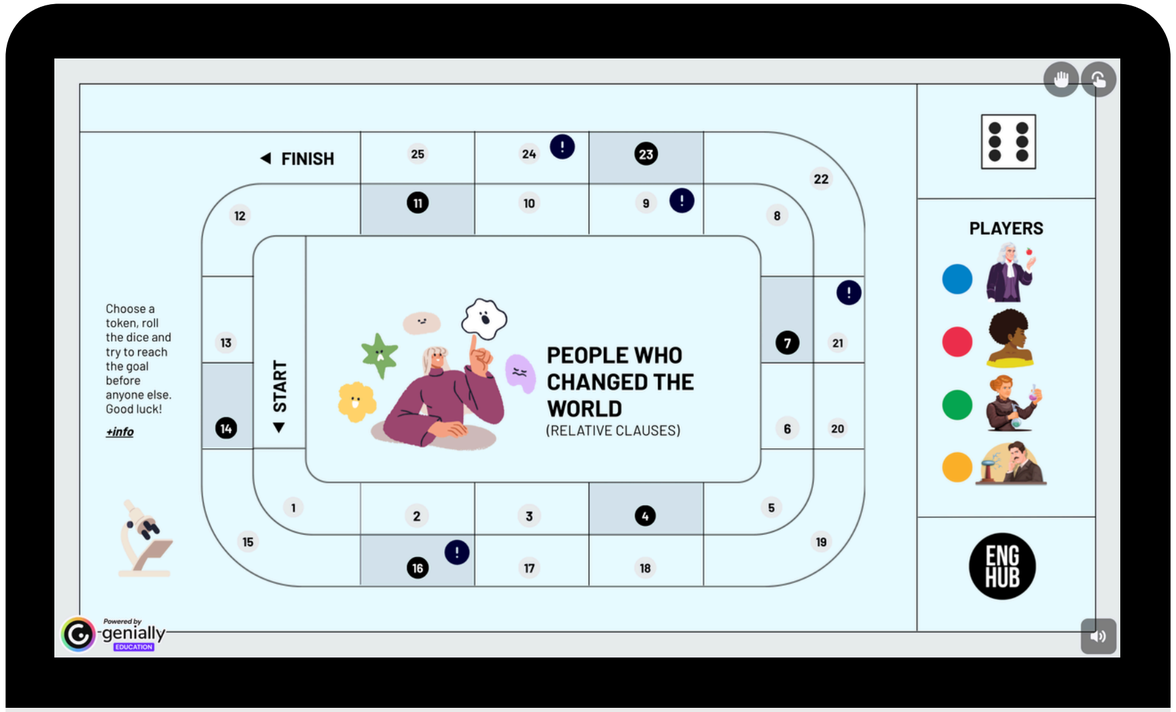
Example:

- *We need people who care about the environment.*
- *We need a system that reduces plastic waste.*
- *This solution, which can be used in big cities, will help reduce pollution.*



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LET'S PLAY



PLAY NOW

Choose a token, roll the dice and try to reach the goal before anyone else.

Good luck!

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EXTRA TASKS

1. Match the sentence halves to create logical and grammatically correct sentences.

1. The scientist who developed the first ___	a) technology, created products people still use today.
2. Marie Skłodowska-Curie, whose research changed ___	b) to communicate instantly transformed the world.
3. The invention that allowed people ___	c) education worldwide, has influenced many young people.
4. The internet, which connects billions ___	d) rights inspired a new generation.
5. The activist who fights for equal ___	e) space changed history forever.
6. Malala Yousafzai, who speaks about ___	f) of people, has changed how we live.
7. The place where many important discoveries ___	g) based, attracts talent from around the world.
8. Silicon Valley, where many tech companies are ___	h) antibiotic saved millions of lives.
9. The year when humans first travelled into ___	i) were made became a centre of innovation.
10. Steve Jobs, whose ideas transformed ___	j) medicine, is still remembered today.

2. Finish the sentences with your own ideas.

- I admire people who_____
- One invention that changed the world is _____
- A person whose ideas influenced many people is _____
- I would like to meet someone who _____
- A place where important discoveries are made is _____
- A time when the world changed a lot was _____
- I respect people whose work _____
- One thing that improves people's lives is _____
- A famous person who inspires me is_____
- A problem that people are trying to solve today is _____



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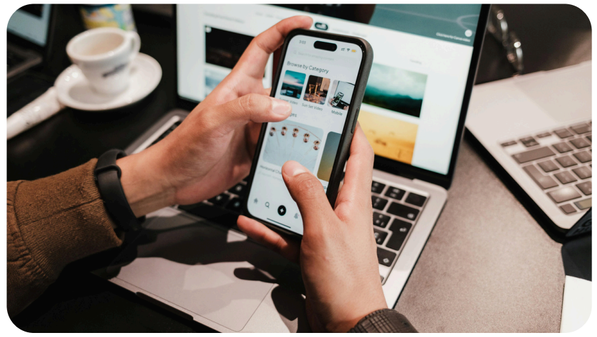
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EXTRA TASK

Look at the pictures and describe them using relative clauses. Try to use different pronouns (who, which, that, where, whose) and both defining and non-defining clauses.

















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YOUR TURN

Write a short paragraph (5–6 sentences) about a person who changed the world. Use at least 3 relative clauses (both defining and non-defining).

Example:

Marie Skłodowska-Curie, who discovered radioactivity, changed science. She was a scientist whose work helped medicine. She worked in conditions that were very difficult.



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THANK YOU!



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