



# Commas and Relative Clauses

To use relative clauses.



1. Decide whether the following relative clauses are essential or non-essential. Write your answer next to each sentence.

Remember: if the relative clause is essential, no commas are needed.

If the relative clause is providing the reader with some additional information, commas are used.

- a. My brother, who lives in Sydney, came to see me last month. \_\_\_\_\_
- b. It is best not to stroke a dog that you do not know. \_\_\_\_\_
- c. I like to ride bicycles that have a loud bell to ring. \_\_\_\_\_
- d. Cats, who are lazy, often sleep for most of the day. \_\_\_\_\_
- e. Students who concentrate in class often do better in tests. \_\_\_\_\_
- f. Emma, who had fallen asleep on the sofa, suddenly woke up. \_\_\_\_\_
- g. Victorian children played with dolls that had china heads. \_\_\_\_\_
- h. Dinosaurs, which are now extinct, are said to have ruled the Earth. \_\_\_\_\_

2. Write a sentence with an essential relative clause.

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Write a sentence with a non-essential relative clause.

\_\_\_\_\_



# Commas and Relative Clauses Answers

1. Decide whether the following relative clauses are essential or non-essential. Write your answer next to each sentence.

Remember: if the relative clause is essential, no commas are needed.

If the relative clause is providing the reader with some additional information, commas are used.

- a. My brother, who lives in Sydney, came to see me last month. *non-essential*
  - b. It is best not to stroke a dog that you do not know. *essential*
  - c. I like to ride bicycles that have a loud bell to ring. *essential*
  - d. Cats, who are lazy, often sleep for most of the day. *non-essential*
  - e. Students who concentrate in class often do better in tests. *essential*
  - f. Emma, who had fallen asleep on the sofa, suddenly woke up. *non-essential*
  - g. Victorian children played with dolls that had china heads. *essential*
  - h. Dinosaurs, which are now extinct, are said to have ruled the Earth. *non-essential*
2. Write a sentence with an essential relative clause.  
*Example answer: The child who had the winning ticket would be the one to receive the prize.*
  3. Write a sentence with a non-essential relative clause.  
*Example answer: The cat, who had been sitting on the wall all afternoon, jumped down to greet his owner.*



# Commas and Relative Clauses

To use relative clauses.



1. Underline the relative clauses in the following sentences and decide whether they require commas or not. If commas are needed, add them in.

Remember: if the relative clause is essential, no commas are needed.

If the relative clause is providing the reader with some additional information, commas are used.

- a. My brother who lives in Sydney came to see me last month.
- b. It is best not to stroke a dog that you do not know.
- c. I like to ride bicycles that have a loud bell to ring.
- d. Cats who are lazy often sleep for most of the day.
- e. Students who concentrate in class often do better in tests.
- f. Emma who had fallen asleep on the sofa suddenly woke up.
- g. Victorian children played with dolls that had china heads.
- h. Dinosaurs which are now extinct are said to have ruled the Earth.

2. Write a sentence with an essential relative clause.

---

3. Write a sentence with a non-essential relative clause.

---



# Commas and Relative Clauses Answers

1. Underline the relative clauses in the following sentences and decide whether they require commas or not. If commas are needed, add them in.

Remember: if the relative clause is essential, no commas are needed.

If the relative clause is providing the reader with some additional information, commas are used.

- My brother, who lives in Sydney, came to see me last month.
  - It is best not to stroke a dog that you do not know.
  - I like to ride bicycles that have a loud bell to ring.
  - Cats, who are lazy, often sleep for most of the day.
  - Students who concentrate in class often do better in tests.
  - Emma, who had fallen asleep on the sofa, suddenly woke up.
  - Victorian children played with dolls that had china heads.
  - Dinosaurs, which are now extinct, are said to have ruled the Earth.
2. Write a sentence with an essential relative clause.  
*Example answer: The child who had the winning ticket would be the one to receive the prize.*
3. Write a sentence with a non-essential relative clause.  
*Example answer: The cat, who had been sitting on the wall all afternoon, jumped down to greet his owner.*



# Commas and Relative Clauses

To use relative clauses.



Study the simple sentences and write two new ones about the subject of the sentence: one with an essential relative clause and one with a non-essential relative clause. You may have to make up some extra information.

Remember: if the relative clause is essential, no commas are needed.

If the relative clause is providing the reader with some additional information, commas are used.

a. I have three brothers.

Essential: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Non-essential: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

b. I have one sister.

Essential: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Non-essential: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



# Commas and Relative Clauses

c. I love shoes and have lots of pairs.

Essential: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Non-essential: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

d. My friend Jai moved to Canada.

Essential: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Non-essential: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

e. Mr Robinson is very famous.

Essential: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Non-essential: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



# Commas and Relative Clauses **Answers**

Study the simple sentences and write two new ones about the subject of the sentence: one with an essential relative clause and one with a non-essential relative clause. You may have to make up some extra information.

Remember: if the relative clause is essential, no commas are needed.

If the relative clause is providing the reader with some additional information, commas are used.

Example answers:

a. I have three brothers.

Essential: *I have three brothers that are younger than me.*

Non-essential: *My brothers, who are all younger than me, like to play on the computer.*

b. I have one sister.

Essential: *I have one sister who annoys me but the other one is nice.*

Non-essential: *My sister, who is older than me, annoys me.*

c. I love shoes and have lots of pairs.

Essential: *I love shoes that light up when you walk and I have lots of pairs of them.*

Non-essential: *I love shoes, which are the main thing I spend my money on, and I have lots of pairs.*

d. My friend Jai moved to Canada.

Essential: *I have a friend called Jai who moved to Canada last week.*

Non-essential: *My friend Jai, who sat next to me in class, moved to Canada.*

e. Mr Robinson is very famous.

Essential: *Mr Robinson is a very famous man who invents many things.*

Non-essential: *Mr Robinson, who has invented many things, is very famous.*