CHAPTER 13
Relative Pronouns
Who, Whom, Which, That

We use the pronouns, who, whom, and which to form questions, but as relative pronouns, they are also used to build sentences. When we use them in this way, we are really putting two sentences together as one. Look at this example:

John likes to play baseball. John is my friend.

If we combine these with who, we get a new sentence: John, who is my friend, likes to play baseball. (Notice that we do not repeat “John” since “John” is replaced by “who.”)

Correct: John, who is my friend, likes to play baseball.
Incorrect: John who is my friend likes to play baseball.

■ Use who to refer to people or animals with names. Here are some examples:
The man who lives next door cuts the grass early in the morning.
Lady, who barks when the lawn mower is running, is a friendly dog.

■ Use which to refer to animals, things, and sometimes groups of people. It is best to use which in nonrestrictive clauses. Nonrestrictive clauses follow a specific name for an animal, thing, or group of people. Nonrestrictive clauses modify a noun or noun phrase without being necessary. Nonrestrictive clauses could be deleted from a sentence without greatly changing the meaning. A nonrestrictive clause is usually set off with commas.

Examples: The Statue of Liberty, which is located on Ellis Island, welcomes all to the U.S.

The book on Kennedy, which I bought, is so heavy.
We hope the baseball team, which plays tonight, wins the game.

Politicians, who are in charge of running the government, work in the capitol.

Here “who are in charge of running the government” is marked as a nonrestrictive element by the commas around it. The meaning of “politicians” is general. The sentence means that all politicians work in the capitol. If we remove the nonrestrictive element who are in charge of running the government, the sentence still means politicians work in the capitol. Commas are needed.

■ Use that to refer to animals, things, and sometimes to groups of people. Today we often use that in place of the word “whom,” which is the object form of “who.” As
the English language changes over time, some words are used seldom and others are dropped entirely. This is what is happening to the word “whom.” Hardly anyone knows how to use it correctly, and it often sounds rather pretentious when it is used correctly. Consider this sentence:

He is the man whom my father warned me about.

This sentence is the combination of these two: “He is the man. My father warned me about the man.” Note that the “man” is in the object position in the second sentence, so the object form of “who” would be used. That form is “whom.” We usually hear it this way:

He is the man that my father warned me about.

Whether you try to learn the correct usage of “whom” by studying a grammar handbook or whether you decide to do what’s easier and use “that” will depend on you, your instructor, and your needs.
EXERCISE 72

Underline the correct pronoun (who, which, that).

Example: People enjoy eating in restaurants (who, that) offer a variety of dishes.

1. Florida residents (who, that) live in populated areas can find good restaurants.
2. Some people choose restaurants (that, which) are located nearby.
3. For those (who, whom) like seafood, there is a wide variety.
4. Fred likes to go to restaurants (that, who) are located near his home.
5. He has found many local restaurants (who, that) serve delicious dinners.
6. Some people will drive to a restaurant (that, which) is located far away.
7. My best friend, (who, which) lives in Tampa, drives eighty miles to a restaurant in Orlando.
8. She likes the Hard Rock Café, (who, which) is located near a popular tourist attraction.
9. There are people in Florida (which, who) eat out every day!
10. In Florida, Fred is the man (who, whom) the restaurant owners love.
**Exercise 73**

A. Underline the correct pronoun (who, which, that).

B. Below each sentence, write the two sentences that this sentence was built from.
   The first one is done as an example.

1. John loves to go to restaurants (which, that) serve spicy food.
   John loves to go to restaurants. The restaurants serve spicy food.

2. He likes tacos with chilis (that, who) set his mouth on fire.

3. Indian curry, (which, that) is hot and spicy, makes him smile.

4. If John gets a pizza, he adds red pepper, (which, who) the waiter brings to the table.

5. He must have a stomach (who, that) is very strong.

6. John is a person (who, which) never gets sick from food.

7. He can eat everything (that, which) the waiter brings.

8. John also brings spicy food to work.

9. He brought some peppers (that, who) burned our tongues.

10. We love the smell (that, which) comes out of the microwave into the hall.
**Exercise 74**

Write the correct pronoun (who, which, that).

**Example:** Small pack and ship stores mail things that people need to send.

1. Some people _________ live near the ocean mail large seashells.
2. One couple mailed two car seats, _________ almost did not fit in a huge box.
3. Brian, _________ was doing the packing, almost fell in the box.
4. He said a guy mailed a surfboard _________ was over five feet long.
5. People mail clocks _________ need special handling.
6. One clock, _________ was over three feet, was too big for the store to mail.
7. Crystal containers, _________ came from Austria, were very difficult to pack.
8. However, the glass made it safely. The person _________ packed it did a great job.
**Exercise 75**

Combine the two sentences to make one using a who, that, or which clause.

1. The food called “Tex-Mex” is spicy. I like the spicy food.
   
   **Example:** I like the spicy food called “Tex-Mex.”

2. Students need money for tuition. They can apply for work-study scholarships.

3. She asked to see the dress. The dress was in the store’s window.

4. Thomas Jefferson was an American statesman. Thomas Jefferson had many other interests.

5. She is the friend. The friend always gets me into trouble.

6. My idea was simple. I shared my idea.

7. The Civil War was an unpopular war. The war was really motivated by greed.

8. The movie is well known over the world. The movie is *Star Wars*.

9. The basket was full of newspapers. The newspapers were old.

10. They are the people. I told you about the people.