

defining and non-defining relative clauses

In written language, defining clauses give important information about the subject or object, and are not separated by commas. Friction is the force **that resists** the movement of one object against another. In written language non-defining clauses give extra information, which we could leave out, and are separated by commas. We cannot use **that** as a relative pronoun. Wrapping an object in aluminium foil, **which reduces energy loss**, keeps food hot.

object clauses with prepositions: whom, who
 In object clauses when we refer to people and use a preposition, we use **whom** in formal language. Enter the address of the person **to whom** you want to forward the message. It is more usual informally to use **who** and put the preposition at the end. Enter the address of the person **(who)** you want to forward the message **to**.

object clauses with prepositions: preposition + which, whose

Formal
 This is the spacecraft **in which** the astronauts visited the Moon.
 The tree **from which** this drug is obtained only grows in the rainforest.
 The instrument **with which** we measure air pressure is called a barometer.
 Dr Gibson, the scientist **on whose** research the article is based, agreed.

Informal (more usual)
 This is the spacecraft **(which)** the astronauts visited the Moon **in**.
 The tree **(which)** this drug is obtained **from** only grows in the rainforest.
 The instrument **(which)** we measure air pressure **with** is called a barometer.
 Dr Gibson, the scientist **whose** research the article is based **on**, agreed.

reason: why

Clauses of reason use **why** or **the reason why**.
 I've just passed my driving test, and that's **why** I'm so happy.
 When water finds a natural opening in the ground that is lower than the water table, a spring comes into existence. This is **the reason why** most springs are found in low places or valleys.

time: when

Clauses of time use **when** or **the time / year etc when**. We can also use **the + time word + in which** in more formal language.
 1969 **was when** the first men went to the Moon.
 It was also **the year in which** the Venera 5 space probe landed on Venus.

place: where

Clauses of place use **where** or **the place where**.
 A habitat is **the place where** an animal or plant species lives.

sentence relative: which

Use **which** to refer to the sentence or clause that comes before it, not just the word before it. There must be a comma before **which**.
 Tina got very good marks in the exam, **which** pleased all her teachers.