

A Parent's Guide to Terminology

In Years 5 and 6, your child will be expected to use a range of sentence structures in their writing including sentences with relative clauses. Use this activity booklet to help your child understand, identify and write relative clauses.

Terminology	Explanation
Relative pronoun	These are used to connect a clause to a noun or pronoun. The relative pronouns used in this booklet are: who, whose, which, where, when. 'That' is also used to replace who or which in essential relative clauses.
Relative clause	This is used to add information about a noun so it must be related to the noun. For example: She lives in Manchester, which is in North West England. I don't like the clown, who has a bright, red nose. Emma is my friend, whose house is next door to mine.
Embedded 'drop in' clause	A relative clause is said to be 'embedded' if it is added to the middle of a main clause. It is then separated from the rest of the sentence by commas. For example: The cat, who had bright eyes , walked down the gloomy street.
Non-essential relative clause	A non-essential relative clause is non-essential information within a sentence and is separated from the main clause with a comma (or surrounding commas if it is embedded).
Essential relative clause	A essential relative clause is essential information within a sentence and does not need commas to separate it from the main clause. Essential relative clauses often begin with the relative pronoun 'that'.