

What are relative pronouns?

A **relative pronoun** is a pronoun that introduces a relative clause within a complex sentence.

In the example:

*Mike found the keys **that he had lost**.*

that is a relative pronoun which introduces the relative clause **that he had lost**.

In English the relative pronouns are *who, whom, which, whose, and that*.

Relative pronouns

who - subject or object pronoun for people

*They caught the lady **who** killed her baby.*

*I know the man **who** you met.*

which - subject or object pronoun

*I read the book **which** is on the table.*

*I visited the town **which** you told me about.*

which - referring to a whole sentence

*They were unsuccessful **which** is disappointing.*

whom - used for object pronoun for people, especially in non-restrictive relative clauses (in restrictive relative clauses use *who*)

*The boy **whom** you told me about got the best grades in mathematics.*

that - subject or object pronoun for people, animals and things in restrictive relative clauses (*who* or *which* are also possible)

*I like the vase **that** is over there.*