

# Relative (Adjective) Clauses & Relative Pronouns · Review & Practice

Render the following sentences into grammatically correct German.

Before you begin with a sentence, identify which category the relative pronoun falls into:

- 1) object of a preposition (in which case the preposition will introduce the adjective clause)
- 2) antecedent is an indefinite pronoun (in which case the relative pronoun is *was*)
- 3) *normal* adjective clause (in which case you should follow the regular procedure)
- 4) genitive *whose* (in which case the relative pronoun will be followed directly by a noun)

Procedure:      1) find the adjective clause in the English sentence & extract it from the main clause  
                      2) insert the antecedent (noun) into the adjective clause & re-write that clause into an intelligible form  
                      3) identify the function of the noun you inserted into the clause & name the case it will take in German

(example:)      *The people you saw yesterday are my neighbors.*  
                      [you saw yesterday] = adj clause → [yesterday you saw the people] = re-written clause  
                      [the people] = direct object → will take accusative      *Die Leute, die du gestern gesehen hast, sind meine Nachbarn.*

Word Order:      Please prevent „orphans“! An orphan is a single verb element (and nothing else) that has been split off from its own clause. If the adjective clause falls in a position in the sentence that causes a single verb element to be split off from the rest of its own clause, then place that single verb element directly in front of the adjective clause.

(example:)      *I would like to take a trip that lasts two weeks.*  
                      bad: *Ich möchte eine reise, die zwei Wochen dauert, machen.* (notice how the verb *machen* becomes an orphan)  
                      good: *Ich möchte eine Reise machen, die zwei Wochen dauert.* (keep *machen* with its own clause)

Analysis:        1) name the antecedent + give its gender  
                      2) name the function + case of the relative pronoun  
                      3) draw a box around the adjective clause and point out the verb

1.      The restaurant we ate in was very clean. (*Restaurant (neut); clean = sauber*)

2.      I bought a car that cost little money. (*car = Wagen (masc)*)

3.      Do you know the friend I gave your book to?

4.      On the weekend, we are doing nothing that is expensive.

5.      Do you like the student whose sister lived in Germany? (use *gefallen* + dative of relationship for *to like*)

6.      The girl I'm waiting for always comes late. (*girl = Mädchen (neut); late = spät*)

1. Das Restaurant, in dem wir gegessen haben, ist sehr sauber gewesen.
2. Ich habe einen Wagen gekauft, der wenig gekostet hat.
3. Kennst du den Freund, dem ich dein Buch gegeben habe? ( ... die Freundin, der ich ... )
4. Am Wochenende machen wir nichts, was teuer ist.
5. Gefällt dir der Student, dessen Schwester in Deutschland gewohnt hat? ( ... die Studentin, deren Schwester ... )
6. Das Mädchen, auf das ich warte, kommt immer spät.