

Using commas with relative clauses

Know when a relative clause needs commas



i A relative clause starts with a relative pronoun (e.g. who, that, which, whose). It is used to describe a noun, picking it out from others, e.g. He rubbed the toe **that** was swollen. When a relative clause is used like this, it extends the noun phrase *the toe*. Relative clauses can also be used to comment on a noun in a sentence, e.g. He rubbed his toe, **which** was swollen. When used like this, it is separated with a comma. Similarly, if the relative clause appears in the middle, it is surrounded by commas, e.g. His toe, **which** was swollen, had been trodden on.

A

Add a relative clause to each sentence:

He has a new car,

I go to school with Suzie,

My older brother,, is visiting on Saturday.

B

Which of these sentences tells us that I have more than one sister? Explain how you know:

My sister who lives in Glasgow is having a baby. ☐

My sister, who lives in Glasgow, is having a baby. ☐

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**SPaG
PRACTICE**

Complete the sentence with a relative pronoun:

The horses are in the stable need more hay.

Pretend your aunt is a doctor. She lives in London.
Write a sentence that describes this using a relative clause:

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CHALLENGE
Think • Talk • Write