

# Punctuating relative clauses

Practise using commas with relative clauses



**i** A relative clause is a clause that starts with a relative pronoun, such as *who*, *that*, *whose* or *which*, or a relative adverb, such as *where*, *when* or *why*. A relative clause is often used in a sentence to add information about a noun. Some relative clauses are used to expand a noun phrase e.g. the noun phrase 'the man' can be expanded like this: the man *who lives next door*. The relative clause tells you exactly which man. Others work like any other subordinate clause - they are dropped into a sentence to add some extra information. When this

**A**

Which of these sentences has been punctuated correctly?

The shopping centre, which, is closed now often gets busy.

☐

The shopping centre, which is closed now, often gets busy.

☐

The shopping centre which, is closed now, often gets busy.

☐**B**

Add two commas to each sentence to punctuate the relative clauses:

My sister who goes to university wants to be a vet.

The library which was built in 1966 is my favourite building.

In the middle of the day when it gets too hot I usually take a break.

The boy who was often late for school made sure he was on time today.

**SPaG  
PRACTICE**

Rewrite this sentence, adding a relative clause and using a pair of commas:

My brother is very tall.

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Write a sentence that includes a relative clause about this man or the fish he has just caught.

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**CHALLENGE**  
Think • Talk • Write