Defining relative clauses

10 practice questions • Padworth Learning Studio

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. Which relative pronoun can be omitted?

The teacher who helped me / The book that I bought / The student who arrived

My answer: _____

2. The people ___ live upstairs are friendly.

who / whose / where

My answer: _____

3. Choose a correct defining clause.

The bag I bought is blue. / The bag I bought it is blue. / The bag what I bought is blue.

My answer: _____

4. The person ___ phone rang apologised.

who / whose / which

My answer: _____

5. In “the bus that stops here”, can that be omitted?

Yes, always / No; it is the subject / Only after a comma

My answer: _____

6. Choose the clause that identifies a particular group.

Students which arrive late must sign in. / Students who arrive late must sign in. / Students, who arrive late, must sign in.

My answer: _____

7. The bike ___ I bought yesterday is blue.

that / who / where

My answer: _____

8. Which relative pronoun can be omitted?

who in “the teacher who helped me” / that in “the bus that stopped” / that in “the book that I borrowed”

My answer: _____

9. Choose the correct version without an object pronoun.

The film who we watched was funny. / The film we watched was funny. / The film watched we was funny.

My answer: _____

10. The person ___ called left no message.

who / whose / where

My answer: _____

Answer key & explanations

1. **The book that I bought** — In that I bought, I is the subject and that is the object.

2. **who** — Who is the subject of live and refers to people.

3. **The bag I bought is blue.** — Do not repeat the object as it inside the relative clause.

4. **whose** — Whose indicates whose phone it was.

5. **No; it is the subject** — That is the subject of stops and must remain.

6. **Students who arrive late must sign in.** — Without commas, who arrive late restricts the rule to late students.

7. **that** — That introduces a defining clause referring to a thing.

8. **that in “the book that I borrowed”** — An object relative pronoun can be omitted. Subject relative pronouns cannot be omitted in these full clauses.

9. **The film we watched was funny.** — We is the subject of watched, so the object relative pronoun can be left out.

10. **who** — Who is needed as the subject of called and refers to the person.