

Lecture Two : Relative pronouns

❖ Definition :

Relative pronouns are used to relate groups of words to nouns or other pronouns. They do not change for singular, plural, masculine, or feminine. They are (what, who, which, whose, when, where, whom, that.)

Eg : the actor who wins an Oscar is usually happy —————> in This example « who » relates the subject to the verb.

❖ The different uses of the relative pronouns :

1. **What** : has the meaning of « the things that... »

Eg : what i saw really scared me..... the things that i saw really scared me.

2. **Who** : refers to people

Eg : The girl who told me it was a good movie was right.

3. **Which** : refers to things (often replaced by that or omitted)

Eg : the seat on which i was sitting was sticky.

Eg : the seat that i was sitting on was sticky.

Eg : the seat i was sitting on was sticky.

4. **Whose** :used for possession. It refers to people, animals, and things.

Eg : His theater, whose seats were all sticky, was finally demolished.

5. **When** : refers to time.

Eg : the year when i was born, television didn't exist.

6. **Where** : refers to place.

Eg : The hotel where they were staying was full of ghosts.

7. **Whom** :refers to people.

Eg : she wanted Leonardo whom she liked as a partner for the movie.

8. That : refers to people and things.

Eg :this is the picture of the actor that i saw on the street yesterday.

Activity : Complete the following sentences using the appropriate relative pronouns :

- I. This is the shop.....was closed last Saturday.
- II. The girl.....sister is in my class was in the theater 4 days ago.
- III. I have bought something.....would interest you.
- IV. This is Jack.....computer is extremely small.
- V. This is the house.....my mother was born.
- VI. He came with a friend.....waited outside in the street.
- VII. I spent my holidays in London.....my cousins live.
- VIII. They didn't wait at the traffic lights.....were red.
- IX. The criminal.....mask was obviously too large didn't drive.
- X. Shakespeare.....lived in London, wrote great plays.