

## Types of Relative Clauses

Here we are going to discuss two types of relative clauses

### Defining clauses and Non defining clauses

#### **Defining**

A relative clause which identifies the noun it qualifies is a defining relative clause. It functions as an integral part of the sentence and hence it is indispensable. If it is removed, the entire sentence may collapse, bringing serious changes in meaning.

Example : "The woman who supplies milk is moving out".

Here the relative clause who supplies milk is a defining type, for it helps the reader to identify the noun it qualifies. It is indispensable in the sense that removal of the relative clause may lead to total collapse in the meaning of the sentence.

Example : "Please fetch me the red pen from my desk".

Here the adjective "red" is indispensable as otherwise we will not know which pen to fetch.

#### **Non-defining**

A non-defining type is the one that imparts additional information . It is not an integral part of the sentence and the removal of it may not affect the meaning of the sentence. It is separated from the main clause using comma or dash

Example : "The elephant, which is the largest of all land animals , is found in Asia and Africa".

Here the relative clause "which is the largest of all land animals" only imparts additional information and the removal of it does not cause change in meaning , thus it is non-defining.

Example : "Do you know who gave me this red pen ? ".

Here "red" can be dispensed with as it provides only additional information.