



Commas and Relative Clauses

To use relative clauses.

1. Decide whether the following relative clauses are essential or non-essential. Write your answer next to each sentence.

Remember: if the relative clause is essential, no commas are needed.

If the relative clause is providing the reader with some additional information, commas are used.

- a. My brother, who lives in Sydney, came to see me last month. _____
- b. It is best not to stroke a dog that you do not know. _____
- c. I like to ride bicycles that have a loud bell to ring. _____
- d. Cats, who are lazy, often sleep for most of the day. _____
- e. Students who concentrate in class often do better in tests. _____
- f. Emma, who had fallen asleep on the sofa, suddenly woke up. _____
- g. Victorian children played with dolls that had china heads. _____
- h. Dinosaurs, which are now extinct, are said to have ruled the Earth. _____

2. Write a sentence with an essential relative clause.

3. Write a sentence with a non-essential relative clause.



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1. Underline the relative clauses in the following sentences and decide whether they require commas or not. If commas are needed, add them in.

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If the relative clause is providing the reader with some additional information, commas are used.

- a. My brother who lives in Sydney came to see me last month.
- b. It is best not to stroke a dog that you do not know.
- c. I like to ride bicycles that have a loud bell to ring.
- d. Cats who are lazy often sleep for most of the day.
- e. Students who concentrate in class often do better in tests.
- f. Emma who had fallen asleep on the sofa suddenly woke up.
- g. Victorian children played with dolls that had china heads.
- h. Dinosaurs which are now extinct are said to have ruled the Earth.

2. Write a sentence with an essential relative clause.

3. Write a sentence with a non-essential relative clause.
