



BBC WORLD SERVICE LEARNING ENGLISH



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Relative clauses

For each of the six questions choose the one correct answer.

1. Aberdeen, _____ my brother lives, is a town in Scotland.
 - a. where
 - b. which
 - c. who
 - d. when

2. Which word is NOT possible?
My parents live in the same house _____ they bought 50 years ago.
 - a. that
 - b. which
 - c. ---
 - d. what

3. Sheila, _____ lives next door, is a dinner-lady in our local school.
 - a. who
 - b. that
 - c. ---
 - d. which

4. The senior managers, with _____ we are meeting next week, are promising a big money deal.
 - a. who
 - b. whom
 - c. which
 - d. whose

5. I met this woman yesterday _____ husband plays golf with my husband!
 - a. who
 - b. whom
 - c. whose
 - d. who's

6. The house _____ I live in is 150 years old.
 - a. where
 - b. which
 - c. who
 - d. what

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Relative clauses

Answers

1. Aberdeen, _____ my brother lives, is a town in Scotland.

a. **where - Correct - where - Use 'where' to refer to places.**

b. which - Use 'which' to refer to things.

c. who - Use 'who' to refer to people.

d. when - Use 'when' to refer to times.

2. Which word is NOT possible?

My parents live in the same house _____ they bought 50 years ago.

a. that - 'That' is correct – it refers to the house.

b. which - 'Which' is correct – it refers to the house.

c. --- - You can omit the pronoun when it refers to the object (they bought the house)

d. **what - Correct - what - 'What' means 'the things that' and is not grammatically correct.**

3. Sheila, _____ lives next door, is a dinner-lady in our local school.

a. **who - Correct who - Use 'who' when the pronoun refers to a person in this type of 'extra information' clause.**

b. that - You cannot use 'that' in this type of 'extra information' clause.

c. --- - You cannot omit the pronoun in this type of 'extra information' clause.

d. which - You cannot use 'which' to refer to a person.

4. The senior managers, with _____ we are meeting next week, are promising a big money deal.

a. who - You could say 'who we are meeting with' or 'with whom we are meeting'.

b. **whom - Correct - whom - You could say 'who we are meeting with' or 'with whom we are meeting' (very formal).**

c. which - Use 'which' to refer to things, not people.

d. whose - Use 'whose' to refer to possessive pronouns.

5. I met this woman yesterday _____ husband plays golf with my husband!

a. who - Which word is used to refer to her husband?

b. whom - Which word is used to refer to her husband?

c. **whose - Correct - whose - Whose is used for possessives, i.e. is used to refer to her husband.**

d. who's - Who's = who is. Which word is used to refer to her husband?

6. The house _____ I live in is 150 years old.

a. where - 'Where' is not possible because of the preposition 'in' (in which I live).

b. **which - Correct - which - 'Which' is the correct answer (in which I live).**

c. who - Use 'who' to refer to people.

d. what - 'What' means 'the things that'.