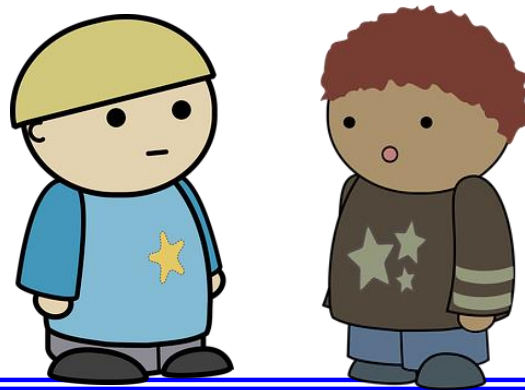


Relative Clauses



Relative Clauses

Relative clauses can give more information about a **noun** or **pronoun**.

They usually begin with a relative pronoun.

***Raj** waved a hand.*

Tell me more about **Raj**.

Raj, who was delighted to see them finally leave, waved a hand.

Raj, who was missing them already, waved a hand.

Raj, who was only three years old, waved a hand.

Relative pronouns
relate the clause to
the **noun** or
pronoun.

Relative Pronouns

who, which, where, whom, whose, that, when



Relative Clauses

Relative clauses can give more information about a **noun** or **pronoun**.

They usually begin with a relative pronoun.

Raj waved a hand.

Tell me more about **the hand**.

Raj waved a hand which was aching badly.

Raj waved a hand which was covered in ants.

Raj waved a hand that he had found in a joke shop.

Relative pronouns
relate the clause to
the **noun** or
pronoun.



Relative Pronouns

who, which, where, whom, whose, that, when

Relative Clauses

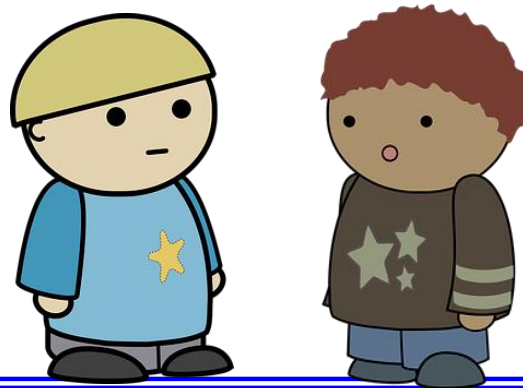
Relative clauses can also relate to a whole clause.

Tom broke the game.

*Tom broke the game, **which annoyed Raj**.*

This is a clause.

It was not the game which annoyed Raj, it was the *breaking of the game*. The **relative clause** relates to the whole clause.



Relative Clauses

Relative clauses can also relate to a whole clause.

*Tom played a brilliant match, **which was great for his chances of promotion**.*

*My best friend lives next door, **which is very handy**.*

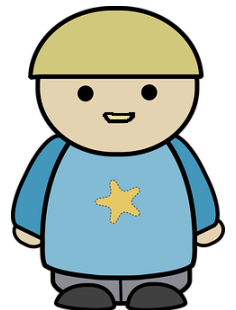
*Bea dropped her cake on the floor, **which made her not want to eat it**.*

*Anna has a bike **which has a bell**.*

*Raj lost the match, **which put him in a bad mood**.*

Which of these **relative clauses** relate to the whole clause?

Which is the odd one out, relating to just a **noun**?



Relative Clauses

Relative clauses can also relate to a whole clause.

Tom played a brilliant match, *which was great for his chances of promotion.*

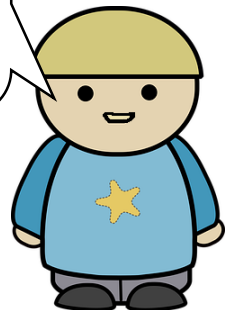
My best friend lives next door, *which is very handy.*

Bea dropped her cake on the floor, *which made her not want to eat it.*

Anna has a bike *which has a bell.*

Raj lost the match, *which put him in a bad mood.*

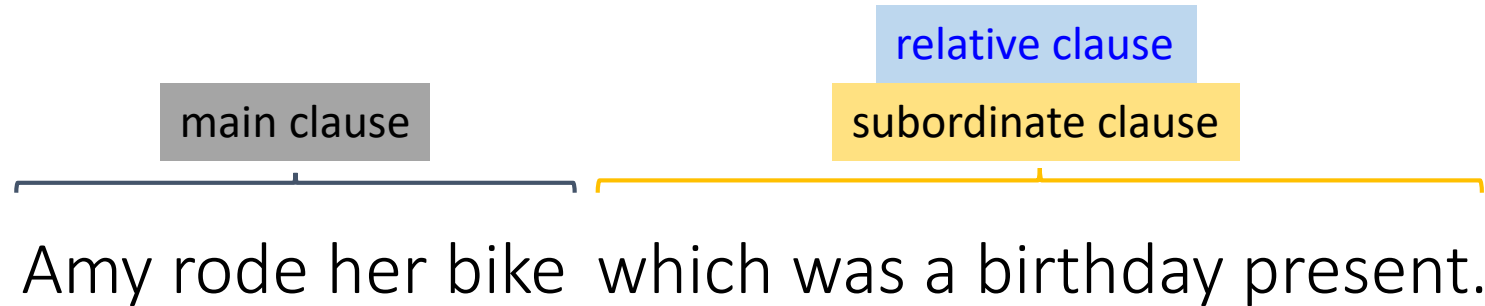
It is the **bike** that has a bell, not Anna so the **relative clause** relates to **bike**.



Which of these **relative clauses** relate to the whole clause?

Which is the odd one out, relating to just a **noun**?

Relative Clauses are a type of Subordinate Clause



The main clause is the main part of the sentence. It makes *sense by itself*.

The subordinate clause *adds meaning* to the main clause; it has less weight.

When the subordinate clause is a **relative clause**, it adds meaning to the main clause.

Punctuating Relative Clauses

When the **relative clause** comes after the main clause, we do not usually separate the clauses with a comma.



A comma would create an *unnecessary break* in the sentence.

The **relative clause** tells us information needed to make sense of the main clause.

We know which puppy Anna is stroking.

Punctuating **Embedded Relative Clauses**

Sometimes the **relative clause** is *embedded* in the main clause.

main clause
Raj handed round the cakes.

Tell me more about **Raj**.

The **relative clause** needs to be next to the **noun: Raj**.

Punctuating Embedded Relative Clauses

Sometimes the **relative clause** is *embedded* in the **main clause**.

main clause

Raj

Tell me more about **Raj**.

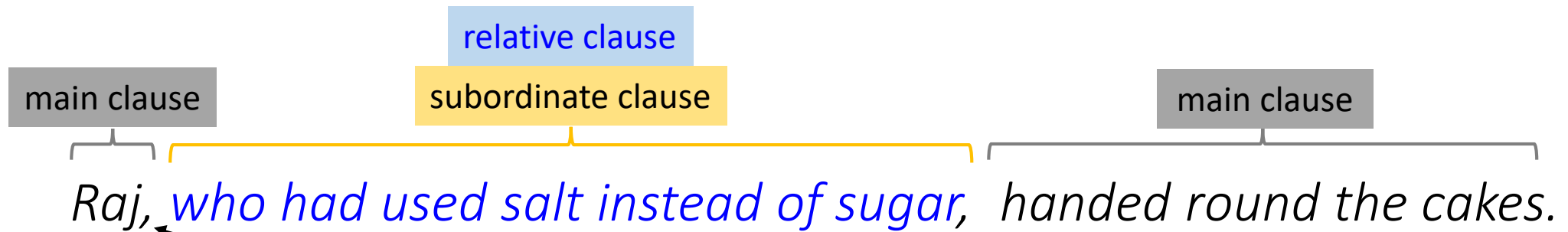
main clause

handed round the cakes.

The **main clause** splits to make space...

Punctuating Embedded Relative Clauses

Sometimes the **relative clause** is *embedded* in the main clause.

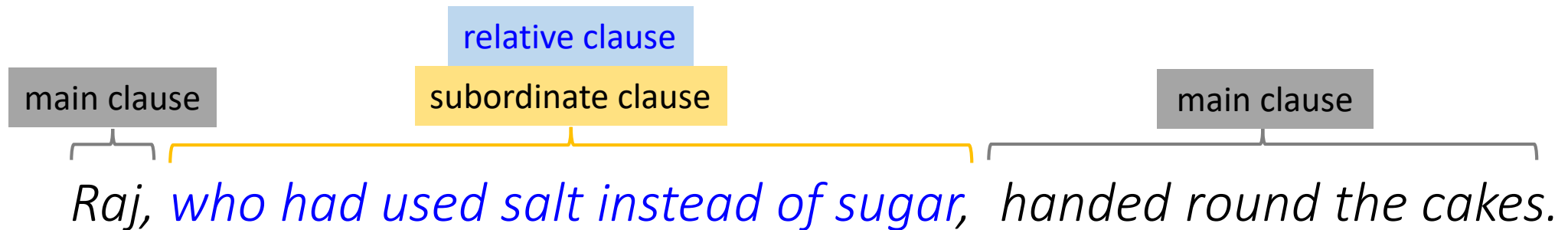


Commas separate the **relative clause** from the main clause.

Tell me more about **Raj**.

The main clause splits to make space...
for the **relative clause**.

Punctuating Embedded Relative Clauses



The **relative clause** is extra (parenthetical) information so we can separate it with commas; the main clause makes sense without it.

The use of salt does not identify Raj. We would still know who handed out the cakes.

Embedding **Relative Clauses**

main clause

Cinderella polished the floor.

The Wolf blew powerfully.

The cottage looked tempting.

The mouse turned into a horse.

Read these main clauses.
Embed a **relative clause** to say more
about the **noun**.
Remember to use commas.

What meaning did you add to the clauses?

main clause

,

relative clause

,

main clause

Cinderella, who was planning a slippery revenge, polished the floor.

The Wolf, who hoped to extinguish all of the candles on his cake, blew powerfully.

The cottage, which sat in a bowl of ice-cream, looked tempting.

The mouse, whose evil plan had been thwarted, turned into a horse.

Check your punctuation.

Practising Using **Relative Clauses**

Relative Pronouns

who

which

where

when

whose

that

when

*Anna jumped in a **puddle**.*

*The **car** screeched round the **corner**.*

*The **dog** limped across the **yard**.*

*The **children** charged like a **herd of bulls**.*

*The **bedroom** was a **mess**.*

Can you add a **relative clause** to these sentences?

Pick a **noun** or clause for it to relate to.

Remember punctuation.

Omitting the **Relative Pronoun**

In spoken language, we sometime omit the **relative pronoun**.

This can make the sentence easier to say.

It must still make sense.

*The bus, **that** we took yesterday, was late.*

The bus we took yesterday, was late. ✓

*The friend, **who** you met at the zoo, lost his bike.*

The friend you met at the zoo, lost his bike. ✓

*The tree, **that** grows in the park, is spooky in the dark.*

The tree grows in the park, is spooky in the dark. ✗

Which
sentences still
make sense?

If in doubt,
use a **relative
pronoun**.

Omitting the **Relative Pronoun**

Now write your own sentences with relative clauses about the Viking Picture below:



Check your sentences make sense.

If in doubt, use a **relative pronoun**.

End

