Practise

Identify and highlight — PowerPoint slide 3

Look in your reading books for range of openers from texts and identify and write any relative clauses that you spot. Identify the noun in the sentence that the relative clause is expanding. Write them in a table like the one below, and can you can extend by identifying whether the noun is a subject or object noun. You could refer to **PowerPoint slide 3** for this extension task.



**Relative clause**

**Subject or object
noun?**

**Noun that the clause
is describing**

People, places and things

Read each sentence carefully. Highlight the relative clauses in yellow, and the nouns they describe in green.

1. The house, which had been built in Victorian times, was supposedly haunted.
2. John, who was an undertaker, crashed the hearse.
3. The cat chased the mouse, which hid behind the skirting board.
4. The baker, who was a greedy fellow, ate all the buns himself.
5. The cake that was the tallest won the competition.
6. Alicia, whose father is our headteacher, is my best friend at school.
7. I ate the cherries that you were saving for breakfast.
8. The pirates, whose behaviour had got a bit out of hand, were discovered head-first in a barrel of rum.
9. The football stadium, where our team had been defeated so catastrophically, stood empty in the moonlight.
10. Last week we chased some boys who had beaten us at Bulldog.

Improve by adding a relative clause

Write out the simple sentences again, but insert a relative clause to add additional information.

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| **Simple sentence** | **Improved with relative clause** |
| The boy was upset. |  |
| The house was deserted. |  |
| The shadows were lengthening. |  |
| The cat was sitting down. |  |
| The bird was nesting in a tree. |  |
| The dragon breathed fire. |  |
| The lorry had been waiting for the lights. |  |
| The lion caught the zebra. |  |
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Possessive relative clauses

**Task one**

Read the descriptions of the birds of prey below.

Underline the relative clauses.

* Red kites, whose tails are forked, have become more common around the M40 motorway.
* Mice and small voles are the main prey of the barn owl, whose wings and upper parts are brown.
* Peregrines, whose faces are marked with black moustaches, are the fastest flyers in the world, reaching speeds of over 300km/hr when plunging for prey.
* The golden eagle, whose plumage is a rich copper-brown colour, lives in the higher grounds of Scotland and North England.
* Look around salt marshes in Southern England for the hen harrier, whose rump is white.
* Kestrels, whose talons are bright yellow, are easily recognisable by their hovering flight.
* Buzzards, whose tails are short and round, fly in circles, reaching amazing heights to spot their prey.

Relative clauses of time and place (when and where)

Rewrite the simple sentences below by inserting a relative clause. The relative clause must begin with either ‘when’ or ‘where’.

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| Simple sentence | Sentence with relative clause |
| The forest was dark. |     |
| Last week Charlie fell over. |     |
| On 22nd May, the rocket will launch. |     |
| The castle glittered in the sunset. |     |
| Christmas Day is my favourite day in the whole year. |     |
| London is a big city. |     |

The unusual suspects

Reads out the scenario of each crime (which also helps to rehearse the construction of the relative clauses). Also read the accompanying set of clues, which must be read in the correct order to enable the players to guess the guilty party.

The players each have a suspect card, which they cover (perhaps with counters) as the clues are read, to identify the guilty party.

The unusual suspects — extension

You could create your own humorous crime scenarios that contain **at least three** relative clauses. You could then create your own clues to rehearse the relative pronouns ‘who’ and ‘that’. Students could use the remaining suspects for this extension activity. Picture clues at end of this work scroll down.

**Scenarios:**

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| **Scenario A - *A bank robbery***Police are looking for a man who they suspect is guilty of leading an attempt to steal £50,000 in used bank notes from Coutholds Bank. The bank, which is next to the Post Office, was held up at around 10am by a gang who appeared to be armed. The robbery attempt was foiled when one of the criminals, who was trying to unhook his sleeve from a door handle, accidentally dropped his weapon. On closer inspection, the ‘weapon’ turned out to be a banana. Police suspect a local gang of criminals, which is connected to the greengrocery trade, could be responsible. Witnesses have offered descriptions of the leader of the gang, who is a notorious criminal. |
| **Clue 1**A suspect that is wearing a hat cannot be the bank robber. | **Clue 2**A suspect who is wearing a gold earring cannot be the bank robber. | **Clue 3**A suspect who does not have sticking out ears is the bank robber. |
| **Clue 4**A suspect who has black hair is the bank robber. | **Clue 5**A suspect who does not have long hair is the bank robber. | **Clue 6**A suspect who has wrinkles is the bank robber.***Who is he?*** (Marcus) |

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| **Scenario B - *A dog snatch***Police have been alerted to a truly despicable crime, which they believe took place on the evening of September 15th. Mrs Johnson-Crumbleton, who lives at The Old Manor House on Eggerly Common, has reported the suspicious disappearance of her dog. The animal, who is called Ponsonby, is a rare and valuable breed called an ‘akita’. This rare dog, which is valued at over £4000, is believed to have been snatched for illegal dog-breeding. Who could be responsible for this despicable act? |
| **Clue 1**A suspect that has red spiky hair cannot be the dog-snatcher. | **Clue 2**A suspect that has long hair cannot be the dog-snatcher. | **Clue 3**A suspect who has brown eyes cannot be the dog-snatcher.  |
| **Clue 4**A suspect that has sticking out ears is the dog-snatcher. | **Clue 5**A suspect who has green eyes is the dog-snatcher. | **Clue 6.** A suspect who has blond hair is the dog-snatcher.***Who is he?*** (Ronnie) |

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| **Scenario C - *A graffiti criminal***The headteacher of St Luke’s College, which is the most expensive public school in the country, is seeking assistance to uncover the culprit who has graffitied the walls of the new Embroidery Centre. The disrespectful lout, who is believed to be a pupil at the school, apparently has considerable talent. However, the headteacher reports an interesting feature of the culprit’s work: an inability to spell. Although actually rather attractive in terms of colour and design, the tag reads: *“This shcool suks”.* |
| **Clue 1**A suspect that is wearing a hat cannot be the graffiti criminal.  | **Clue 2**A suspect that has a hooked nose cannot be the graffiti criminal. | **Clue 3**A suspect who has brown eyes cannot be the graffiti criminal. |
| **Clue 4**A suspect who has sticking out ears is the graffiti criminal. | **Clue 5**A suspect who is bald is the graffiti criminal. | **Clue 6**A suspect who is clean-shaven is the graffiti criminal.***Who is he?*** (Barney) |

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| **Scenario D – *The washing line bandit***Local residents, who live in Soapy Lane in Puckington, have been intrigued by an incident reported to them at the last Parish Council Meeting. An elderly resident, who is affectionately known as ‘That Gal Molly’, reported the strange theft of an article of clothing from her washing line on the previous Monday. Apparently, Molly, who is a larger lady, had left her tent-like underpants on the line to dry while she was watching daytime TV. On returning to take in the articles towards evening, a rather voluminous pair of lady’s bloomers were found to be missing.  “I do like a bit of room for movement,” chuckled Molly. “I cannot think what the thief wanted with them: maybe he fancied a spot of camping!” |
| **Clue 1**A suspect who does not have a beard is the washing line bandit. | **Clue 2**A suspect who has long hair cannot be the washing line bandit. | **Clue 3**A suspect who does not have a button nose is the washing line bandit. |
| **Clue 4**A suspect who is bald cannot be the washing line bandit. | **Clue 5**A suspect who has brown eyes is the washing line bandit. | **Clue 6**The suspect who has spiky hair is the washing line bandit.***Who is he?*** (Steve) |

**Suspect card:**

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| **Billy** | **Josh** | **Marcus** | **Steve** |
| **Ronnie** | **Jordan** | **Martin** | **Barney** |