

# Ways of Linking Ideas



There are many ways in which ideas can be connected: To this end we can use:

- Relative Clauses (defining and non-defining)
- Participial Clauses (beginning with either present past or perfect participle)
- Noun phrases occurring together (apposition)



## Relative Clauses

They contain a main verb and begin with a relative pronoun: that, which, who/whom, whose) or a relative adverb (when, where, why);

That/who/whom/whose are used for people;

That/which refer to things;

When refers to time;

Where refers to places;

Why refers to reason;



Relative clauses can be used at the end of a sentence or can be embedded in another clause;

Example:

*Madrid is the city where I grew up. Madrid, where I grew up, is a great city.*

There are two main types of relative clauses:

1. Defining

2. Non-defining



## Defining relative clauses/Non-defining relative clauses/Comment clauses

1. In a defining relative clause, the relative pronoun defines the noun which immediately precedes it, and is therefore an essential part of a sentence:

*The couple who brought me up here are not my real parents.*

2. Non-defining relative clauses add additional information, but are not essential to the meaning of a sentence. They are separated from the main clause by commas. That cannot be used instead of which/who.

*The hotel, which has a hundred bedrooms, is on the outskirts of the city.*

3. In comment clauses we use which to introduce a comment on the previous clause or phrase:

*We were stuck in a traffic jam for three hours, which I found really frustrating.*



## Participial Clauses

1. They can begin with either **present** or **past participle** or **perfect participle**;

Present participle: *Concentrating on what I was doing, I didn't realized how late it was.*

Past participle: *Seen from the distance, the Pyramids look quite small.*

Perfect participle: *Having finished the speech, he left the room.*

2. They are separated by a comma if they precede the main clause;

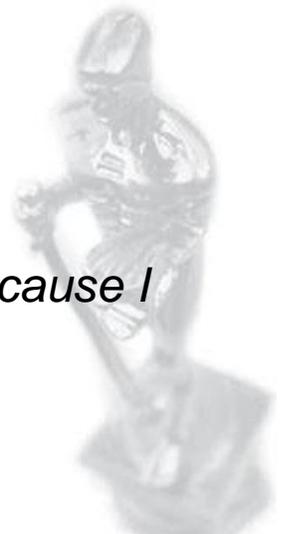
3. They are used to link two events in time, to provide a reason, instead of a condition construction:

*Opening the door, I saw...*

*Having left our map at home, we couldn't find...*

*Eaten in small quantities, chocolate is good for you. (If it is eaten...)*

4. Having + past participle=a past perfect verb (*Having worked hard=Because I had worked hard*)



5. Participle clauses can follow prepositions: *after seeing that film...*

6. They can also be used instead of defining relative clauses: *Anyone (who is) caught shoplifting will be prosecuted.*



## Noun phrases occurring together

A common, economical way of linking two or more facts about the same person, thing, place is to put them next to each other in a sentence.

As with relative clauses, the second noun/noun phrase can be either defining or non-defining:

*Her friend Klaus is an engineer.* (it tells us who, therefore no comma is needed)

*I'm going to see my tutor, Bev Jackson.* ( it provides additional, descriptive information, therefore a comma is used)

