



Advanced Relative Clauses — B1 exercises

Printable worksheet · 23 questions · answer key with explanations on the last page
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Name _____ Date _____ Score _____ / 23

A. Multiple choice

10 questions

Circle the letter of the correct answer.

- The colleague ____ I was speaking has just resigned.
A) to whom B) who C) to who D) whom to
- Which version is the informal equivalent of 'the man to whom I spoke'?
A) the man to who I spoke B) the man whom to I spoke
C) the man I spoke to D) the man which I spoke
- She missed the deadline, ____ annoyed the whole team.
A) which B) that C) what D) who
- Forty people applied, ____ were shortlisted.
A) ten of whom B) ten of them C) ten of who D) ten of which
- 'The parcels left outside' is a reduced form of ____.
A) the parcels which left outside B) the parcels which were left outside
C) the parcels who left outside D) the parcels leaving outside
- The report, ____ conclusions were disputed, has been withdrawn.
A) which B) that C) of which D) whose
- This is the shelf on ____ the vase used to stand.
A) that B) who C) where D) which
- Which sentence is formal written style?
A) The issue we talked about is resolved. B) The issue which we talked about is resolved.
C) The issue about which we talked is resolved. D) The issue that we talked about is resolved.
- The candidates, ____ had prepared thoroughly, all performed well.
A) most of who B) most of which C) most of them D) most of whom
- 'He arrived two hours late, which was typical' — what does which refer to?
A) He B) two hours C) the whole event of arriving late D) typical

B. Fill in the blank

8 questions

Write the missing word or words in the gap.

- The lawyer _____ whom I consulted advised me to settle.
- There were sixty entries, three of _____ shared the prize.

3. He forgot my birthday entirely, _____ upset me a great deal.
4. The village in _____ she grew up has fewer than 200 people.
5. The museum, _____ collection is world famous, opens at ten.
6. Twenty guests arrived, half of _____ had not been invited.
7. The documents left _____ the desk are confidential.
8. The woman _____ by the window is my supervisor.

C. Sentence building

5 questions

Put the words in the correct order and write the sentence on the line.

1. whom / spoke / to / was / I / man / The / helpful.

Front the preposition in formal style.

2. helpful. / The / very / to / I / was / spoke / man

Strand the preposition in everyday style.

3. surprised / nobody. / She / which / arrived / late,

Comment on a whole event with one pronoun.

4. applied, / were / whom / interviewed. / Forty / people / six / of

Attach a quantifier to a relative clause.

5. The / left / were / outside / parcels / soaked.

Reduce a passive clause to a participle.

Answer key

Every answer carries the reason behind it. Read the reason for the questions you got right as well — that is where you find out whether you were right for the right reason.

A. Multiple choice

1. **A) to whom** — When the preposition comes first, the pronoun must be whom.
2. **C) the man I spoke to** — Everyday English strands the preposition at the end and drops the pronoun entirely.
3. **A) which** — Sentential which refers back to an entire clause, not to a single noun.
4. **A) ten of whom** — A quantifier plus of plus whom joins the clause without a second sentence.
5. **B) the parcels which were left outside** — A reduced relative drops both the pronoun and the form of be from a passive clause.
6. **D) whose** — Whose works for inanimate possessors as well as people, and is shorter than the conclusions of which.
7. **D) which** — After a preposition, the pronoun for a thing is which — never that.
8. **C) The issue about which we talked is resolved.** — Fronting the preposition is the marker of formal register.
9. **D) most of whom** — Whom is required after of when the antecedent is people.
10. **C) the whole event of arriving late** — Sentential which comments on the entire preceding clause.

B. Fill in the blank

1. **with** — A fronted preposition must be followed by whom when the antecedent is a person.
2. **which** — Which follows a quantifier plus of when the antecedent is a thing.
3. **which** — Sentential which comments on the whole of the preceding clause.
4. **which** — After a preposition the pronoun for a place or thing is which, not that.
5. **whose** — Whose expresses possession by an institution as easily as by a person.
6. **whom** — Whom is required after of when the antecedent is people.
7. **on** — A reduced relative keeps its preposition: documents which were left on the desk.
8. **sitting** — An active clause reduces to a present participle, dropping who is.

C. Sentence building

1. **The man to whom I spoke was helpful.**
2. **The man I spoke to was very helpful.**
3. **She arrived late, which surprised nobody.**
4. **Forty people applied, six of whom were interviewed.**
5. **The parcels left outside were soaked.**