

# Relative Clauses

What is a **relative clause**?

How can we write them?



**Relative clauses** can give more information about a **noun** or **pronoun**.  
They usually begin with a relative pronoun.

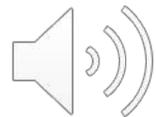
Tell me more about **the design**.

The **design** covers the box.

*The design, which appeared overnight, covers the box.*

*The design, which is brightly coloured, covers the box.*

*The design, which expresses gratitude, covers the box.*



**Relative Pronouns (& Relative Adverbs)**

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

**Relative clauses** can give more information about a **noun** or **pronoun**. They usually begin with a relative pronoun.

Tell me more about the **box**.

The design covers the **box**.

*The design covers the **box** which had been rather dull-looking.*

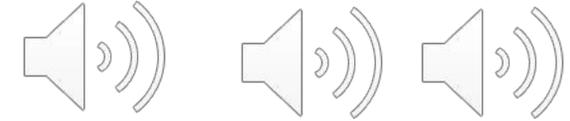
*The design covers the **box** that no-one had noticed before.*

*The design covers the **box** whose exact purpose no-one knew.*



### Relative Pronouns (& Relative Adverbs)

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



**Relative clauses** can also relate to whole clauses.

Anna hated the art.

This is a **clause**.

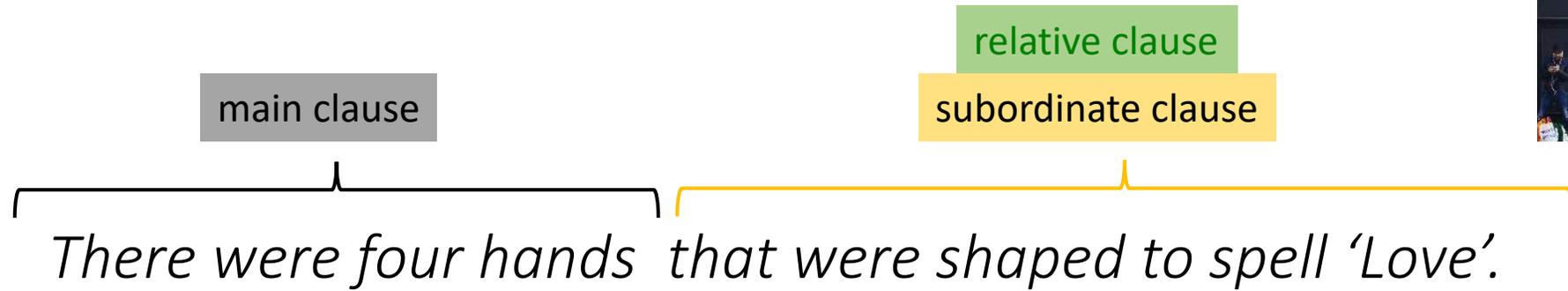
Anna hated the art *which annoyed Mckenzie*.

It was not *the art* that annoyed Mckenzie: it was that *Anna hated it*. The *relative clause* relates to the whole clause.



# Punctuating **Relative Clauses**

When the order is **main clause** + **relative clause** → *no comma*.



A comma would create an *unnecessary break* in the sentence.  
The **relative clause** tells us extra information about the main clause.

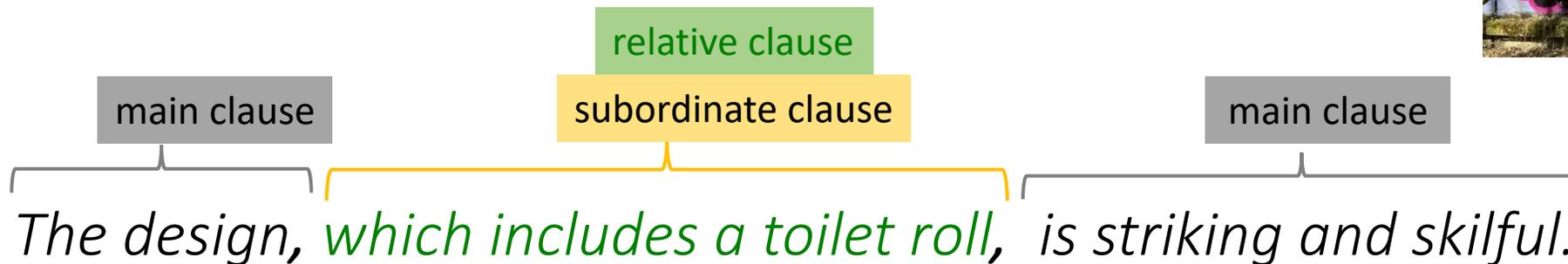


# Punctuating Relative Clauses

When the **relative clause** splits the **main clause** → *commas*.

Placing the clause in the middle is called **embedding**.

**main**, **relative clause**, **clause**



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



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