

20 Embedded clauses

Practice Run 1 *Change the following sentences into complex clauses with one of the two acting as a nominal clause. In cases where both could be made into the nominal clause the sentence to be embedded is given in italics. When can you make non-finite constructions and do they use –ing or to infinitive?*

1. He can start working next week. It makes him very happy.	That he can start working next week makes him very happy. / To be able to start ...
2. She is clearly mistaken about this. I have told her.	I have told her that she is clearly mistaken about this.
3. Things will improve soon. This is our assumption.	Our assumption is (that) things will improve soon.
4. How will they take the news? I have really no idea.	I have really no idea how they will take the news.
5. My first question was never answered. (it was) Who is responsible for this incredible mess?	My first question, who was responsible for this incredible mess, was never answered.
6. Whose car was this? She was really uncertain about it.	She was really uncertain about whose car this was.
7. He really didn't care. The camper might get stuck under the roof.	He really didn't care that/if/whether the camper might get stuck under the roof.
8. He wanted to be an astronaut. His biggest ambition was never fulfilled.	His biggest ambition, to be an astronaut, was never fulfilled.
9. We are to discuss this next week. That is the boss's idea.	The boss's ideas is for us to discuss this next week (that we discuss...)
10. <i>The ship went down in minutes.</i> This raised questions about sabotage.	The ship going down in minutes raised questions about sabotage. For the ship to go down in ...
11. <i>His daughter is to marry rich, old man.</i> He wants nothing more.	He wants nothing more than for his daughter to marry a rich, old man.
12. You should not eat people. It is morally wrong.	Eating people is morally wrong. It is morally wrong to eat people.
13. Jake was really out of order. I was surprised (at Jake).	I was surprised at Jake('s) being out of order. (that he was ...)
14. For her father this changed everything. Her prospective husband was a freemason.	Her prospective husband being a freemason changed everything for her father. (The fact that) That her prospective husband was ...
15. She was really annoyed. She had made such a stupid mistake.	She was really annoyed at having made such a stupid mistake. ... to have made... ... that she had made ...
16. I turned off the water. That was all.	All I did was (to) turn off the water. Turning off the water was all I did.

Practice Run 2 Make the following prompts into relative clauses. Underline the antecedent and make sure you use the correct relative pronoun. Under remarks write what syntactic function the relative pronoun has, if the clause is restrictive or extra-information, and when it is non-finite.

Prompts	Solutions	Remarks
1. Margaret Thatcher was the first woman Prime Minister. She was hated by all left-wing students.	<u>Margaret Thatcher</u> , who was hated by all left-wing students/ who was the first woman Prime Minister, was the first woman Prime Minister/ was hated by all left-wing students.	extra-information subject
2. It was about five minutes into the performance. The electricity was cut off.	It was about <u>five minutes</u> into the performance when electricity was cut off.	restricting temporal wh-
3. It was absolutely absorbing. The documentary provided a detailed look at the life cycle of the bilharzias worm.	<u>The documentary provided a detailed look at the life cycle of the bilharzias worm</u> , which was absolutely absorbing.	sentential
4. There are a many directors. They are more experienced with staging Shakespeare than me.	There are a <u>many directors</u> (who are) more experienced with staging Shakespeare than me.	restrictive non-finite subject
5. He took me to a room. In the room his ancestors used to have secret prayer meetings.	He took me to a <u>room</u> in which/where his ancestors used to have secret prayer meetings.	restrictive prepositional local wh-
6. The old woman had apparently opened the door to let her attacker in. She must have known him.	The <u>old woman</u> , who must have known her attacker, had opened the door to let him in.	extra-information subject
7. I informed the neighbours. My aunt had got on with them very well.	I informed <u>the neighbours</u> that/who/Ø my aunt had got with on very well. / Formal: ... with whom my aunt... (if she got on with all the neighbours very well: ... <u>the neighbours</u> , with whom / who my aunt had got on with very well.)	restrictive object
8. The doctor gave them a card with a number. They could ring it at all hours of the night.	The doctor gave them a card with <u>a number</u> which/that/Ø they could ring it at all hours of the night.	restrictive object
9. I used to play a Beatles record for hours on end. Its cover showed all the band members. They were dressed up in uniforms.	I used to play <u>a Beatles record</u> whose cover / the cover of which showed all the <u>band members</u> Ø dressed up in uniforms for hours on end.	restrictive genitive / non-finite, same subject
10. I used to play that Beatles record for hours on end. Its cover showed all the band members. They were dressed up in uniforms.	I used to play <u>that Beatles record</u> , whose cover the cover of which showed all the <u>band members</u> Ø dressed up in uniforms, for hours on end.	(that) extra-information genitive / non-finite, same subject
11. The young woman is my sister Jane. She is sitting by the window.	<u>The young woman</u> (that/who is) sitting by the window is my sister Jane.	restrictive subject
12. The cell had contacted some people. The report concluded that all of them were involved in militant causes.	The report concluded that <u>all the people</u> whom the cell had contacted were involved in militant causes. (formal; informal ... that/Ø the cell ...)	restrictive object formal