



GRAMMAR PRACTICE

Non-defining Relative Clauses in Culture

Culture and Traditions | Adding extra information | Cambridge IGCSE ESL 0511

1. Lead-in discussion

Talk with a partner. You may already use this grammar without noticing it.

No.	Question
1	Read this report-style sentence: The festival, which attracts thousands of visitors, takes place every spring. What information could be omitted?
2	Add extra information to this sentence: The parade, _____, filled the city centre with music.
3	Add extra information to this sentence: Local families, _____, prepared traditional food for the event.
4	Why might writers use commas to add extra detail in a newspaper report or article?

2. Grammar in context

Read the text. The bold phrases show the grammar used in a natural topic context.

Explaining Cultural Traditions

Many countries have annual festivals, **which bring families and communities together**. These events often include music, food and traditional clothing.

In some places, grandparents, **who pass stories to younger generations**, play an important role in keeping customs alive. Local languages, **which are part of cultural identity**, are also protected through songs and stories.

Globalisation, **which connects people around the world**, can change traditions. However, many young people still value celebrations, **which help them understand where they come from**.

3. Notice the pattern

Use non-defining relative clauses to add extra information. The sentence still makes sense without the extra clause.

Use	Form / signal	Example
People	who	Grandparents, who tell stories, keep traditions alive.
Things/ideas	which	Globalisation, which connects people, can change culture.
Punctuation	commas around extra information. Or a comma before the optional clause.	Festivals, which are popular, bring people together.
No that	do not use that	Use who/which, not that, in non-defining clauses.

4. Build accurate sentences

Complete each sentence using the grammar focus. Then write two examples of your own.

No.	Prompt	Use	Your answer
1	Festivals bring communities together. They are popular with families.	which	
2	Grandparents keep stories alive. They remember older customs.	who	
3	Local languages are important. They are part of identity.	which	
4	Globalisation can change traditions. It connects people worldwide.	which	

1. _____

2. _____

5. Use it in exam answers

Complete the tasks using the grammar focus naturally.

Task	What to do
Speaking	Describe a celebration and add extra information that could be omitted without changing the main idea.
Writing	Write a short newspaper-style paragraph about a cultural tradition. Use at least two non-defining relative clauses.
Reading	Underline non-defining relative clauses in the context text and remove them to test the sentence.

6. Common mistakes

Correct the mistakes.

No.	Mistake	Your correction
1	My grandmother, that tells stories, is important to our family.	
2	Festivals which are colourful, attract visitors.	
3	Globalisation, that connects people, changes culture.	
4	Local languages, which are part of identity are important.	

7. Topic discussion questions

Use these for pair work, small-group discussion, or speaking-test warm-up practice.

1. Which tradition in your country is especially important?
2. Do young people value traditions as much as older people?
3. Can globalisation damage cultural identity?
4. How can schools help students learn about different cultures?

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4. Build accurate sentences

1. Festivals, which are popular with families, bring communities together.
 2. Grandparents, who remember older customs, keep stories alive.
 3. Local languages, which are part of identity, are important.
 4. Globalisation, which connects people worldwide, can change traditions.
- Own answers will vary. Check that the grammar focus is accurate and natural.

6. Common mistakes

1. My grandmother, who tells stories, is important to our family.
2. Festivals, which are colourful, attract visitors.
3. Globalisation, which connects people, changes culture.
4. Local languages, which are part of identity, are important.

Notes for checking

1. People: who - Grandparents, who tell stories, keep traditions alive.
2. Things/ideas: which - Globalisation, which connects people, can change culture.
3. Punctuation: commas around extra information - Festivals, which are popular, bring people together.
4. No that: do not use that - Use who/which, not that, in non-defining clauses.