

## Formal Relative Clauses

Look at the following examples, and then do the exercise on page 2.

### 1. We can use a non-defining relative clause with "of which" and "of whom" after quantifiers:

#### All, both, each, many, most, neither, none, part, some...

Sally has two sisters. Both of them work as a nurse.

Sally has two sisters, both of whom work as a nurse.

Peter has very nice friends. I like all of them very much.

Peter has very nice friends, all of whom I like very much.

My mother invited many relatives to my birthday. Only a few of them showed up.

My mother invited many relatives to my birthday, only a few of whom showed up.

I talked to an old friend of mine last night. Some of her remarks offended me.

I talked to an old friend of mine last night, some of whose remarks offended me.

### 2. After a number (one, two etc.; the first, the second etc.; half, a third etc.)

I want to be flatmate with my friend Daniel. One of his biggest interests is playing basketball.

I want to be flatmate with my friend Daniel, one of whose biggest interests is playing basketball.

There are many books in our school library. I'm quite interested in two of them.

There are many books in our school library, two of which I'm quite interested in.

### 3. After superlatives (the best, the biggest etc.)

Yesterday, my friend and I caught a lot of fish. The biggest of them was 20 pounds.

Yesterday, my friend and I caught a lot of fish, the biggest of which was 20 pounds.

I met with many beautiful girls at the party last night. The most beautiful of them was Nora.

I met with many beautiful girls at the party last night, the most beautiful of whom was Nora.

### 4. Of Which vs Whose

We can use "of which" instead of "whose" for the objects but "of which" is used in **non-defining relative** clauses.

This is the machine. I described its properties.

This is the machine whose properties I described.

This is the machine the properties of which I described.

I stayed at a good hotel. Its facilities are fabulous.

I stayed at a good hotel whose facilities are fabulous.

I stayed at a good hotel the facilities of which are fabulous.

**Exercise: Rewrite the following sentences to make them more formal.**

1. Yesterday I got some books. I wanted to buy only one.

\_\_\_\_\_.

2. In my street there are two houses. Both are empty.

\_\_\_\_\_.

3. We had dinner at a good restaurant. Its rooms are beautiful.

\_\_\_\_\_.

4. That's the song. I told you about its lyrics.

\_\_\_\_\_.

5. The CEO had a speech about the company. He owns a part of it.

\_\_\_\_\_.

6. The students took the exam. Everyone passed.

\_\_\_\_\_.

7. Susan has a son. She showed me a picture.

\_\_\_\_\_.

8. Electronics is a new subject at my school. I know very little about it.

\_\_\_\_\_.

9. I have two cousins. I don't like them.

\_\_\_\_\_.

10. Trisha is a painter. I like some of her pictures a lot.

\_\_\_\_\_.

**KEY:**

1. Yesterday I got some books, **one of which I wanted to buy.**
2. In my street there are two houses **both of which are empty.**
3. We had dinner at a good restaurant, **the rooms of which are beautiful.**
4. That's the song, **the lyrics of which I told you about.**
5. The CEO had a speech about the company, **part of which he owns.**
6. The students took the exam, **all of who passed.**
7. Susan has a son, **of whom she showed me a picture.**
8. Electronics is a new subject at my school, **of which I know very little about.**
9. I have two cousins, **both of which I don't like.**
10. Trisha is a painter, **some of whose pictures I like a lot.**