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Corso di Traduzione in Lingua inglese John Gilbert

adapted from *A Reference Grammar. Grammatica inglese della comunicazione,*

*(A Communicative (Reference?) Grammar of English?/the English Language?)*

by [G. De Devitiis](http://www.amazon.it/s/ref=dp_byline_sr_book_1?ie=utf8&field-author=guido+de+devitiis&search-alias=stripbooks), [L. Mariani](http://www.amazon.it/s/ref=dp_byline_sr_book_2?ie=utf8&field-author=luciano+mariani&search-alias=stripbooks), [K. O'Malley](http://www.amazon.it/s/ref=dp_byline_sr_book_3?ie=utf8&field-author=kiaran+o%2527malley&search-alias=stripbooks) (Zanichelli: Bologna, 1993, p. 34).

Relative Clauses

(The) Use of Relative Clauses

one can use a whole clause.

1. Instead of using a simple adjective to describe a noun, an entire clause can be used. This type

Rather than using it is possible to use

of clause, which describes or in any case provides further information, is called a relative clause.

furnishes/gives in any case additional

2. The function of a relative clause cannot always be connected/related/linked to the function of

an adjective. Indeed/In fact a relative clause can refer to a particular noun (e.g. *The car, which was*

make reference to a specific

as well/too

*dark red, stopped.),* but (it) can also refer to an entire clause/(sentence?) (e.g. *It’s raining, which is a pity.).*

Defining/Limiting/Restrictive and Non-defining/-limiting/-restrictive (Relative Clauses)

1. There are two types of relative clause(s). The first type simply provides further information

merely furnishes/conveys additional

about someone or something (e.g. *The diet recommends oranges, which contain vitamin C.).* This/Such

make up/represent the focal point

information does not constitute the focus of the sentence: the clause that/which contains it can

focus on the main point/meaning: containing

for this reason losing anything of the meaning

therefore/(thus) be omitted without taking anything away from the meaning of the sentence itself.

thereby left out detracting/subtracting at all/altering

with nothing being taken from

This type of relative clause is called non-defining.

that to which they make reference

2. Defining relative clauses instead define and limit what they are referring to (e.g. *Bicycles*

on the other hand restrict refer to

*which/that don’t have lights are dangerous.).* They are therefore an essential/a fundamental part

of the sentence and (they) cannot be omitted without altering/changing/modifying the/its meaning.

left out

Defining relative clauses (are such that they) allow/enable one/(us) to refer to/permit reference to

ensure that only one (…) are being referred to/are referred to.

The meaning of def. rel. clauses makes it possible to refer

makes possible (the) reference

only one specific person or thing or group of people or particular things.

exclusively to a/one specific/single person or thing, or group of people or particular things.

(The) Punctuation in/(of) Relative Clauses

1. The non-essential character of non-defining relative clauses is marked

unessential/inessential nature of the non-defining clause is indicated/shown/conveyed

by the commas which/that separate/separating them/it from the rest of the sentence (e.g. *The girl,*

*who was reading a newspaper, looked up.)*.

since/as it is a fundamental part on the contrary

2. The defining relative clause, being an essential part of the sentence, is instead not separated

given that it is

by a comma/commas (e.g. *The girl who/that was reading a newspaper looked up.).*