

REDUCED RELATIVE CLAUSES

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Sometimes in relative clauses with a passive meaning (*relative pronoun + auxiliary verb 'be' + a past participle*), we can omit the relative pronoun and the auxiliary verb.

- Cars **parked** here will be clamped. (= Cars **which have been parked** here ...)
- The gold **stolen** in the train robbery was never recovered. (= ...**which was stolen**...)
- The bystander **injured** in the crash was airlifted to hospital. (=... **who was injured** ...)
- Half of the people **invited** to the party didn't turn up. (= ... **who were invited** ...)

Relative clauses with an active meaning containing the verb 'be' + a present participle can be made in the same way but with the present participle.

- Who is that **talking** to your mother? (= Who is that **who is talking** to your mother?)
- Is that the cat **making** that noise? (=Is that the cat **that is making** that noise?)

With other verbs, we can reduce the relative clause by taking out the relative pronoun and turning the verb into a present participle.

- People **refusing** to wear face masks can be fined... (= **People who refuse** . . .)
- Anyone **touching** that wire will get a shock. (= Anyone **who touches** . . .)

Reduced structures are also used with the adjectives available and possible.

- Please send me all the tickets **available**. (= . . . **that are available**.)
- Tuesday's the only date **possible**. (= . . . **that is possible**.)

Perfect participles (*having + past participle*) are not often used in this way.

- Do you know anybody who's lost a cat?
NOT "Do you know anybody having lost a cat?"

You can omit the relative pronoun and the be verb when:

they are followed by a prepositional phrase.

- The man **in** the house is my father.(=The man **who is in** the house is my father.)
- The books **on** the desk are mine (= The books **that are on** the desk are mine.)

NOTE: We can only reduce relative clauses when the relative pronoun is the subject of the relative clause.

- That woman **talking** to my wife is ... (=That woman **who is talking** to my wife is...)

When the relative pronoun is the object of the relative clause, we can omit the relative pronoun but not the verb.

- That woman **who** my wife is talking to is our local Member of Parliament.
- That woman my wife is talking to is our local Member of Parliament.

NOT "That woman my wife talking to is .." or "That woman who my wife talking to is .."