

UNIT 97 Relative adverbs *where, when, why; which, what, all that* in relative clauses

A

To talk about places in a relative clause, we usually use the adverb **where**, which can be substituted by the expressions **in which** / **at which**....

*The town **where** I was born is in the north of Belgium. (also: The town **in which** I was born...)*
*This is the hotel **where** / **in which** we spent our honeymoon.*

B

To talk about a period of time, we usually use the adverb **when**, which can substitute **in which** / **on which** / **at which**....

*Halloween is the festival **when** children play 'trick or treat'.*

With the expressions **the year...**, **the day...**, **the time...**, you can find both **when** and **that** or no adverb at all.

This is the time (when) we usually meet.
The year (that) they got married was 1992, I think.

C

To talk about the reason for something happening, we usually use **the reason why...** or even just **the reason...**, instead of **the reason for which**.

*I don't know **the reason why** she left.*
***The reason** I went to the party was that I wanted to meet Marion.*

D

Other relative clauses can be introduced by:

- **which**, referring to all the previous sentence, not just the last part. Note that a comma separates the main clause from the relative one.

*Sandra passed her exam, **which** she didn't quite expect.*
*They didn't come to the concert, **which** was such a pity.*

- **what**, instead of **the things(s) that...**

*Tell me **what** you know.*
*Did you hear **what** I said?*

- **all (that) / everything (that)** WHAT OUT! Not: ~~all what~~

*Tell me **all that** you know.*
*This is **all** we need.*
*She could have **everything** she wanted.*

E

At times, instead of a relative clause, we can use the present participle of the verb (-ing form) if the action described is underway. Or we can use the past participle of the verb if it has a passive meaning.

There are a lot of people jogging in the park this morning. (instead of: There are a lot of people who are jogging...)
The Mona Lisa, painted by Leonardo da Vinci, is one of the most famous painting in the world. (instead of: The Mona Lisa, which was painted...)

Student's notes

EXERCISES

Relative adverbs *where, when, why; which, what, all that* in
relative clauses **UNIT 97**

NAME: student code DATE: / /

LEVEL: CEFR L TIME: —

97.1 Complete the sentences with *where* or *when* instead of the expressions *in / at which*.

- 1 This is the flat (in which) I lived as a student.
- 2 This is the desk (in which) I used to sit in Class 1.
- 3 Nine o'clock was the time (at which) we always went to bed as children.
- 4 It was a period of my life (in which) I was very happy.
- 5 That was the B&B (at which) we always stayed on holiday.
- 6 It was the day (on which) all the students met in the Hall.

97.2 Write *that* in the sentences where it's possible to use it as an alternative to *when* or *which*.

- 1 This is the dress which / I spilt tomato sauce on.
- 2 Here's the book which / I wanted to tell you about.
- 3 It's the time when / I usually take my medicine.
- 4 I didn't see them last night, which / made life difficult.
- 5 They didn't come in when / I called them.
- 6 It's a Christmas when / I usually have big party.

97.3 Match the two parts of the sentences.

1 2 3 4 5 6

- | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1 I don't understand | a where to go. |
| 2 She disappeared last week, | b everything that he writes about it. |
| 3 I want to read | c why you did it. |
| 4 I'm not listening to | d all that was left when he died. |
| 5 This is | e which is very surprising |
| 6 She couldn't decide | f What you're trying to say. |

97.4 Change the present or past participle into a relative clause.

- 1 The café was full of people eating their lunch.
The café was full of people their lunch.
- 2 This is the book illustrated by my father.
This is the book by my father.
- 3 There were lots of children playing on the beach.
There were lots of children on the beach.
- 4 We saw their dog eating a bone on the carpet.
We saw their dog a bone on the carpet.
- 5 I met Lynda taking a walk in the main street.
I met Lynda a walk in the main street.
- 6 There was a dark cloud covering the sun.
There was a dark cloud the sun.
- 7 Where's the portrait painted in Paris?
Where's the portrait in Paris?
- 8 Have you seen the men digging the road?
Have you seen the men the road?

Teacher's observations