

Relative Clauses and Relative Pronouns



A Conversation between two secondary school students

Read this conversation to see how the **Relative Clauses** and **Relative Pronouns** have been used in context. The **Relative Clauses** are in **green** and the **Relative Pronouns** have been **underlined**.

Background: *Takondwa and Rachel are secondary school students in Malawi, a small land-locked country that is found in the south-east of Africa. It is the first term of the year and they are getting to know each other. In the **last** episode, they got into trouble with the strict Maths teacher, **Mr. Phiri** who punished them for being late for his first class.*

Takondwa: That was really unfair. I don't understand (the reason) why he did that.

Rachel: How could he punish us like that? If I tell my brother that we had to sweep the whole school yard, he will be shocked.

Takondwa: I won't tell anyone at home. I can imagine my mother asking me with a frown on her face: "Who is this Mr Phiri? Where is he from? What did he eat this morning so as to give you such a silly punishment?"

Rachel: Ha, ha, ha. I'll say that he is **the no-nonsense teacher** who punished us on our first day of school!

Takondwa: Ha, ha, ha. No, *I will* say that he is **the teacher** whose cruel heart didn't feel sorry for us on our first day of school.

Rachel: Takondwa! This one is good: he is **the teacher** whose class you were glad to miss on your first day of school!

Takondwa: No, I don't feel that way. I don't like missing **classes** that will give me the necessary knowledge to succeed in life. I want to be selected to the Polytechnic. I will be **the engineer** who will build roads for you in the future. The Polytechnic is really **the place** where I want to study in the future.

Rachel: Do you really want to become an engineer?

Takondwa: Yes! I'll do **everything (Zero)** I can to make my dreams come true. I'll study hard, even if it means waking up at night every day to go through my lessons. I'll soak in **all the knowledge that I need for the selection.** I know we still have a long way to go until that day, but I need to be ready for that day.

Rachel: I want to become a top model.

Takondwa: Ha, ha, ha. This must be a joke Rachel. You can't do that. My father would kill me if I told him that. He only wants me to be an engineer or a doctor. All other jobs are not jobs for him. They are mere '*occupations*' of one's time.

Rachel: No, I'm serious Takondwa. I want to do fashion shows and become a famous top model like Naomi Campbell.

(Takondwa shakes her head in pity and then hugs her new friend.)

Takondwa: You still have time to change your mind.

Rachel: I won't; don't even dream about that! I'll be the happiest girl **the day when I become a top model.** Paris, New York and London will no longer have any secrets for me. These are **the places where I want to spend the rest of my life.**

(Takondwa can't believe what she is hearing. She really feels sorry for her friend.)

Rachel: I'm telling you the truth. Naomi is **the girl whom I admire the most in this world.** She is my role model.

Takondwa: **(The thing that) What I really want is to be happy.** I want to be able to provide for my family. I don't want my kids to lack school fees and medical attention. I want them to have a roof above their heads and clothes on their skins. I want them to have enough food to eat and even have some extra portions for the dogs. That's **(the thing that) what I really want in life.**

Rachel: I want all that and much more! It's not wrong to have dreams. Don't worry though. I'll be **the most hardworking girl (Zero) you have ever seen in your life.** I'll not be an uneducated top model. I'll be a top model who has a Masters' degree.

Takondwa: Rachel, kkkk. Did you wake up on the wrong side of your bed? What are you going to do with a Masters' degree on a catwalk?

Rachel: Display it.

Takondwa and Rachel: Ha, ha, ha!

Here is a reminder of Relative Pronouns

Relative Pronouns

WHO	• Relates to people (subject)
WHOM	• Relates to people (object)
WHICH	• Relates to animals and objects
THAT	• Relates to people, animals and things
WHOSE	• Refers to possession
WHERE	• Refers to places
WHEN	• Refers to time
WHY	• Refers to reason
WHAT	• Relates to things
∅ (ZERO)	• Relates to people and things