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WRITING FIRST: Flashback

Look back at your response to the Writing First activity on page 271. Identify two pairs of simple sentences that could be combined with subordinating conjunctions. On the lines below, combine each pair into a complex sentence by making one sentence a dependent clause. Check to make sure you have punctuated your new sentences correctly.

C Using Relative Pronouns

Another way to form a complex sentence is to use **relative pronouns** (*who, that, which*, and so on) to join two simple sentences (independent clauses).

TWO SIMPLE SENTENCES Pit bulls were originally bred in England. They can be very aggressive.

COMPLEX SENTENCE Pit bulls, ^{DEPENDENT CLAUSE} which were originally bred in England, can be very aggressive.

Note: The relative pronoun always refers to a word in the independent clause.

Relative Pronouns

that	which	whoever	whomever
what	who	whom	whose

Different relative pronouns show different relationships between the ideas in the independent and dependent clauses they link.

TWO SIMPLE SENTENCES Nadine Gordimer comes from South Africa. She won the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1991.

COMPLEX SENTENCE Nadine Gordimer, who won the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1991, comes from South Africa.

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278

17 C

WRITING
EFFECTIVE SENTENCES

TWO SIMPLE SENTENCES Last week I had a job interview. It went very well.

COMPLEX SENTENCE Last week I had a job interview that went very well.

TWO SIMPLE SENTENCES Transistors have replaced vacuum tubes in radios and televisions. They were invented in 1948.

COMPLEX SENTENCE Transistors, which were invented in 1948, have replaced vacuum tubes in radios and televisions.

ON THE WEB

Visit *Exercise Central* at bedfordsmartins.com/writingfirst for more practice.

◆ PRACTICE 17-5

In each of the following complex sentences, underline the dependent clause once, and underline the relative pronoun twice. Then, draw an arrow from the relative pronoun to the noun or pronoun to which it refers.

Example: MTV, which was the first TV channel devoted to popular music videos, began in 1981.

1. MTV's very first music video, which was performed by a group called the Buggles, contained the lyric "Video killed the radio star."
2. MTV's early videos were simple productions that recorded the singers in live studio performances.
3. Recording executives, who did not like MTV at first, soon realized the power of music videos.
4. Music videos became big productions that featured many settings, special effects, and dancers.
5. The Cars' song "You Might Think" won the award for best video at the first MTV music awards, which aired in September 1984.
6. The game show *Remote Control*, which made fun of *Jeopardy*, began on MTV in 1987.
7. The fashion program *House of Style* became popular in 1989 because of supermodel Cindy Crawford, who was its first host.
8. *The Real World*, a reality series that featured a group of young people living together in New York City, also became popular then.

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279
Writing
Complex Sentences

- 9. That same year, governor Bill Clinton, who would soon be elected president, met with young voters on MTV.
- 10. Today, MTV, which devotes less and less time to music videos, produces many hours of original programming.

◆ PRACTICE 17-6

Combine each of the following pairs of simple sentences into one complex sentence. Use the relative pronoun that follows each pair.

Example: Many young Americans perform community service as part of their education. They are learning valuable skills. (who)

Many young Americans, who perform community service as part of their education, are learning valuable skills.

- 1. Their work is called service-learning. It benefits both the participants and the communities. (which)

- 2. A service-learning project meets a community need. It is sponsored either by a school or by the community. (which)

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- 3. The young people work at projects such as designing neighborhood playgrounds. They are not paid. (who)

- 4. These are challenging projects. They give young people satisfaction. (that)

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- 5. Designing a playground teaches them to communicate. It requires teamwork. (which)
