

# 74 Clauses after the noun



*Robinson Crusoe* is a novel **based** on the true story of a Scottish pirate, Alexander Selkirk.

## 1 Reduced relative clauses

We often make relative clauses shorter, like this:

'*Robinson Crusoe*' is **a novel** **which is based** on the true story of Alexander Selkirk.

→ '*Robinson Crusoe*' is **a novel** **based** on the true story of Alexander Selkirk.

It's about **a man** **who lives** on a deserted island.

→ It's about **a man** **living** on a deserted island.

- If the verb in the original relative clause is active, we use the *-ing* form:  
*It's a shop that sells designer jeans.* → *It's a shop selling designer jeans.*
- If the verb is passive we use the *-ed* form:  
*It's a novel which is based on a true story.* → *It's a novel based on a true story.*
- We can only make clauses shorter when the noun we are describing is the same as the subject of the relative clause, NOT if it is different:  
noun we are describing ≠ subject of relative clause

*This is a photo of the hotel that we stay in every year.*

~~*This is a photo of the hotel staying in every year.*~~

More on other participle clauses ➤ Unit 75

! We only use the *-ing* form if the action is happening now or is continuing. We cannot use it for single actions in the past:

*That was the customer who phoned yesterday.* (single completed action)

~~*That was the customer phoning yesterday.*~~

! We don't use *-ing* forms with state verbs (➤ Unit 29.3/4):

~~*He's the man owning the factory.*~~ ✓ *He's the man who owns the factory.*

## 2 Infinitive clauses

We often replace a relative clause with an infinitive clause after a superlative, after *the first*, *the second*, etc., or after *one*, *next*, *last*, *few* and *only* (➤ Unit 76.2):

*Yuri Gagarin was the first man that went into space.*

→ *Yuri Gagarin was the first man to go into space.*

*She was the only one who helped me.* → *She was the only one to help me.*

## 3 Using prepositions instead of relative clauses

We often shorten sentences with the help of prepositions:

- relative pronoun + *have* → *with*:

*This queue is for passengers who have EU passports.*

→ *This queue is for passengers with EU passports.*

*Is there a restaurant that has a vegetarian menu near here?*

→ *Is there a restaurant with a vegetarian menu near here?*

- relative pronoun + *be* + preposition → *in/at/on*, etc:

*I like the painting which is on the bedroom wall.* → *I like the painting on the bedroom wall.*

*What are those plants that are in your garden?* → *What are those plants in your garden?*