

A Winning Opportunity!

VOCABULARY

Here are some words from the story *A Winning Opportunity!* Match the nouns on the left with the meanings on the right. The first one has been done for you.

- | | |
|------------------------|--|
| _3_ briefcase (n) | 1. a flat paper container which is used for letters. |
| ___ vase (n) | 2. a sparkling wine which is made from grapes. |
| ___ envelope (n) | 3. a portable case for carrying books or papers. |
| ___ champagne (n) | 4. an armchair that can be adjusted for comfort. |
| ___ recliner (n) | 5. an open container that is used to hold flowers. |
| ___ competition (n) | 6. an electrical appliance used for cleaning carpet. |
| ___ vacuum cleaner (n) | 7. a bed suitable for two people to sleep in. |
| ___ double bed (n) | 8. a stopper used for closing bottles of wine. |
| ___ winning ticket (n) | 9. a contest where players compete for a prize. |
| ___ cork (n) | 10. a piece of paper that shows your 1 st prize entry in a competition. |

Scroll down to check your answers on Page 6!

READING PREDICTION:

Looking at the words above, what do you think the story will be about?

Put the words in order of how you think they will appear in the story.

Go to Page 2 and read the story!

READING

A Winning Opportunity!

Read the following story and complete the activities that follow.

Jack arrived home from work one sunny afternoon. He was feeling tired because he had walked home from his office and his briefcase was filled with papers. It felt like it had rocks in it! Jack really didn't enjoy his job as a bank clerk.

Jack opened the front door and was glad to be home. He noticed that his wife, Sarah, had left the mail on the hall table next to a beautiful crystal vase. The letter was in a large white envelope and looked very official. He rushed over to the table and picked up the letter. He saw a company name printed on the envelope - 'Fly Fiji'. Suddenly, Jack was filled with curiosity and he couldn't help but smile as he held the envelope in his hand and wondered what news the letter had brought!

The letter began...

Dear Jack,

*Congratulations! You have won an all expenses paid
5-day trip to Fiji! Thank you for entering the competition
at Franklin's Supermarket at Downtown Shopping Centre....*

Jack had forgotten that he had even entered the competition and now he had the winning ticket! He couldn't believe how lucky he was and threw the letter into the air and started dancing around the house. He went into the kitchen and found a bottle of Champagne that was left over from Sarah's birthday party. He popped the cork and whistled as he poured himself a glass.

'I can't wait for Sarah to get home!' Jack said to himself. Sadly, Sarah wasn't due home until the next day because she was away on a work conference. Jack and Sarah were both workaholics, so the break in Fiji was just what they needed. Suddenly, Jack felt full of energy and excitement! He sat back in his recliner, smoked an expensive cigar, sipped on his class of champagne, had his favorite food delivered, he cleaned the dishes, vacuumed the house with their dirty old vacuum cleaner – all the while whistling to himself and thinking about his fantastic winning opportunity!

After all that work, the excitement started to wear thin and Jack began to feel tired. He decided to get a good nights sleep so that he and Sarah could celebrate tomorrow. He washed his face and climbed into his old lumpy double bed. 'I wonder what the beds are like in Fiji?' Jack pondered as he drifted off to sleep.

The next morning, Jack woke up with a smile on his face and decided to read the letter again – he still couldn't believe his good luck at winning the competition! Jack noticed the date of the trip - March 21st. Jack screamed with horror and threw his hands in the air in disgust. 'I can't believe it! I'm going to kill that postman! They're always late! Unbelievable!' Jack shrieked.

Today was March 20th.

CHECK WHAT YOU KNOW: Were your predictions correct?

Scroll down to see the story - in pictures - on page 3!

READING COMPREHENSION

PICTURE MATCH

According to the story, order the pictures to tell the story of *A Winning Opportunity!* Number each picture from 1-12.



Pictures source: *A Thousand Plus Pictures for Teachers to Copy* (1984) Andrew Wright.

GRAMMAR

RELATIVE CLAUSES

Using relative clauses in your writing can often make your story more interesting. But what are 'Relative Clauses'? Read the brief rules below to help you with the next exercise:

Clauses beginning with question words such as **which**, **whose**, **who**, or **whom** are often used to modify nouns and some pronouns - to identify people and things, or to give more information about them. Clauses like these are called **relative clauses**. Words like **which**, **whose**, **who**, **whom**, etc, that introduce a relative clause are called **relative pronouns**.

The Relative Pronoun "which"

a. "which" is used to refer to things.

eg: The church **which had been deserted for many years** was demolished last year. (= **defining** clause - the relative pronoun refers to the subject of the main clause)

b. "which" can refer also to the whole of a previous clause.

eg: He managed to survive in the desert for three weeks without food, **which was amazing**. (= **non-defining** clause)

In the above example (b), *what was amazing* was not the food, but the fact that he survived in the desert for three weeks without food - the whole situation referred to in the clause. This is called a **non-defining** clause.

*** A **defining clause** is a clause which explains which person or thing you are talking about. For example, if you say "I met the woman", it might not be clear whom you mean, so you might say, "I met the woman who lives next door". In this sentence, "**who lives next door**" is a **defining** relative clause.

*** A **non-defining** clause is a clause, which does not identify or classify; it simply tells us more about a person or thing that has already been identified. An example of a non-defining clause is "Many colleagues like Jane, who came here last month". In this sentence, "**who came here last month**" is a **non-defining** relative clause because it gives further information about Jane, but it is not essential and can be omitted.

Relative Pronoun "THAT"

"That" can replace "which", "whom" and "who" when the clause is **defining**, as in the following:

The man **who / that is wearing a blue T-shirt** is John.
The girl **whom / that you saw yesterday** is my sister.
That man **whose face is scarred** is behaving strangely.
The building **which / that has forty storeys** is very grand.

However, "that" cannot be used to replace "whose", or "which" when it is used to modify the entire previous clause (= **non-defining**).

For more grammar rules follow this source:

<http://www.edict.com.hk/vlc/clauses/relativeclauses.htm>

WRITING

Look back at the **VOCABULARY** exercise you completed on page 1.

Can you identify the relative clauses in the meanings?

Now it's your turn to try! Complete the sentences from the story with relative clauses of your own to make the story more interesting.

The first one has been done for you.

.... he had walked home from his office, *which* was five kilometers from his house.

1. ...Jack opened the front door *where/which/that*...
2. ...she had left the mail next to the vase *who/where/which*...
3. He saw a company name printed on the envelope...
4. He had forgotten all about the competition...
5. ...his wife Sarah...
6. The next morning...
7. *which* was really beautiful.
8. *that* was old and lumpy.

**** Scroll down to page 6 to see sample answers for each gap. Good luck!**

ANSWER KEY

VOCABULARY

3	briefcase	= a portable case
5	vase	= an open container
1	envelope	= used for letters
2	Champagne	= sparkling wine

4	recliner	= an armchair
9	competition	= a contest
6	vacuum cleaner	= an electrical appliance
7	double bed	= suitable for 2 people
10	winning ticket	= entry paper
8	cork	= a stopper for wine

READING PREDICTION

Order of words:

briefcase, vase, envelope, competition, winning ticket, Champagne, cork, recliner, vacuum cleaner, double bed.

READING COMPREHENSION

Picture order:

1=F, 2=K, 3=I, 4=L, 5=J, 6=H, 7=D, 8=E, 9=B, 10=C, 11=A, 12=G.

RELATIVE CLAUSES

Sample answers only – other alternatives may be acceptable:

1. Jack opened the front door *which* led to the hallway.
2. She had left the mail next to the vase *which/that* was filled with flowers.
3. He saw a company name printed on the envelope *which* read 'Fly Fiji'.
4. He had forgotten all about the competition *which* he entered at Downtown Shopping Centre.
5. His wife Sarah, *who* he hadn't seen for two days, was away at a conference.
6. The next morning, *which* was his birthday, he woke up at 7am.
7. He admired the vase *which* was really beautiful.
8. He sat down on his double bed *which* was old and lumpy.

Compiled by John Putt and Fiona Wiebusch, 2003.

