



# Relative Clauses:

## Reduced Relative Clauses: Advanced Grammar Practice

Fill in the blank with the correct option.

- The researchers \_\_\_ the experiment reported unexpected results in their latest publication.  
a) conducted  
b) conducting  
c) having conducted  
d) to conduct
- The data \_\_\_ from the survey indicate a significant shift in public opinion.  
a) collecting  
b) having collected  
c) to collect  
d) collected
- Employees \_\_\_ to relocate will receive a generous compensation package.  
a) agreed  
b) to agree  
c) agreeing  
d) having been agreed
- The measures \_\_\_ by the government have failed to reduce inflation.  
a) introduced  
b) introducing  
c) having introduced  
d) to introduce
- Amelia Earhart was the first woman \_\_\_ solo across the Atlantic Ocean.  
a) flying  
b) to fly  
c) flown  
d) having flown
- The river \_\_\_ through the valley provides water to several farming communities.  
a) flowed  
b) to flow  
c) having flowed  
d) flowing
- The candidates \_\_\_ for the second round of interviews will be notified by email.  
a) selecting  
b) to select  
c) selected  
d) having selected
- The prime minister, \_\_\_ by the latest scandal, issued a formal apology to the public.  
a) embarrassed  
b) embarrassing  
c) having embarrassed  
d) to embarrass
- Students \_\_\_ a grade below 50% will be required to resit the examination.  
a) receiving  
b) received  
c) to receive  
d) having been received
- The new policy, \_\_\_ last month, has already attracted widespread criticism.  
a) announcing  
b) having announced  
c) announced  
d) to announce





## Answers

1. b) conducting
2. d) collected
3. c) agreeing
4. a) introduced
5. b) to fly
6. d) flowing
7. c) selected
8. a) embarrassed
9. a) receiving
10. c) announced
11. d) to send
12. b) designed
13. c) I will always remember the day when we first met.
14. b) having
15. a) of which
16. d) outlining
17. a) available
18. b) to win
19. c) believed
20. d) having undergone



# Explanations

## 1. “conducting” (b)

The present participle 'conducting' reduces the defining relative clause 'who conducted the experiment'. The active participle is needed because the researchers performed the action. 'Conducted' (past participle) would imply passive meaning ('who were conducted'), which is illogical — researchers conduct experiments, they are not conducted.

## 2. “collected” (d)

The past participle 'collected' reduces 'which were collected from the survey'. The passive form is needed because data are collected by someone — they do not collect themselves. 'Collecting' (active participle) would wrongly imply the data are performing the action of collecting.

## 3. “agreeing” (c)

The present participle 'agreeing' reduces 'who agree to relocate'. The active form is correct because employees are the ones doing the agreeing. 'Agreed' as a past participle would imply a passive reading ('who were agreed'), but the verb 'agree' cannot be passivised with a person as subject in this way. 'Having been agreed' is also passive and ungrammatical here.

## 4. “introduced” (a)

The past participle 'introduced' reduces 'which were introduced by the government'. The passive form is required because the measures were introduced by the government — the measures did not introduce themselves. 'Introducing' (active) would illogically suggest the measures are performing the action.

## 5. “to fly” (b)

After ordinals ('first', 'second', 'last') and superlatives, the to-infinitive is used to reduce a relative clause: 'who flew' → 'to fly'. This is a standard C1 pattern expressing achievement. 'Flying' (present participle) does not correctly convey the achievement sense required after 'first'. 'Flown' is a past participle that would require passive voice, but 'fly' is intransitive here.

## 6. “flowing” (d)

The present participle 'flowing' reduces 'which flows through the valley'. Use the active present participle for ongoing states and habitual actions. 'Flowed' would create a garden-path sentence reading as two finite verbs. 'Having flowed' (perfect participle) wrongly implies the flowing was completed before the providing.

## 7. “selected” (c)

The past participle 'selected' reduces 'who have been selected for the second round'. The passive form is needed because the candidates are selected by someone — they do not select themselves. 'Selecting' (active) would mean the candidates are doing the selecting, which changes the meaning entirely.

## 8. “embarrassed” (a)

The past participle 'embarrassed' reduces the non-defining clause 'who was embarrassed by the scandal'. Note the commas marking a non-defining clause. The passive participle is needed because the PM was embarrassed by the scandal. 'Embarrassing' would mean the PM was causing embarrassment to others — the opposite meaning.

## 9. “receiving” (a)

The present participle 'receiving' reduces 'who receive a grade below 50%'. The active form is correct because students receive grades — they are not received themselves. 'Received' as a past participle would imply passive meaning, and 'having been received' is also passive, neither of which makes sense for students getting grades.

#### 10. “announced” (c)

The past participle 'announced' reduces the non-defining clause 'which was announced last month'. The policy was announced by someone (passive), so the past participle is correct. 'Announcing' (active) would mean the policy itself was making an announcement, which is illogical. 'Having announced' is also active and wrong for the same reason.

#### 11. “to send” (d)

After 'first', use the to-infinitive to reduce a relative clause: 'that sent' → 'to send'. This pattern with ordinals ('first', 'last') and superlatives expresses achievement or sequence. 'Sending' (present participle) does not correctly convey the factual achievement sense. 'Sent' would create ambiguity between past simple and past participle.

#### 12. “designed” (b)

The past participle 'designed' reduces 'which was designed to manage patient records'. The passive form is needed because the software was designed by developers. 'Designing' (active) would imply the software is designing something itself. 'Having designed' is also active and nonsensical — software does not design.

#### 13. “I will always remember the day when we first met.” (c)

Temporal relative clauses with 'when' cannot be reduced to participle clauses — you cannot say \*'the day first meeting' or \*'the day first met'. Only clauses with who/which/that as SUBJECT can be reduced. The other three all have subject relative pronouns: 'who is standing' → 'standing', 'which was built' → 'built', 'who are studying' → 'studying'.

#### 14. “having” (b)

The present participle 'having' reduces the non-defining clause 'who has over forty years of experience'. In reduced clauses, the participle form replaces the finite verb. 'Had' and 'has' are finite (conjugated) verbs and cannot function as participles in reduced clauses. 'To have' (infinitive) does not fit this structure.

#### 15. “of which” (a)

In the structure 'the reputation of which', the preposition 'of' is placed before 'which' to express possession for things — a formal alternative to 'whose'. 'Whose' would require a different word order: 'whose reputation has declined'. 'That' cannot be used in non-defining clauses (after commas). 'Which' alone would make 'the reputation which' refer to 'reputation' rather than 'university', breaking the intended meaning.

#### 16. “outlining” (d)

The present participle 'outlining' reduces 'which outlines the terms'. The letter does the outlining (active), so the active participle is correct. 'Outlined' (past participle/passive) would mean 'the letter which was outlined the terms', which is nonsensical — the letter outlines the terms, it is not outlined by someone. 'Outlined' also creates a garden-path reading where it looks like a past tense main verb.

#### 17. “available” (a)

The adjective 'available' reduces the relative clause 'which are available to undergraduate students'. When a relative clause contains 'be + adjective', the relative pronoun and 'be' can be omitted, leaving just the adjective phrase. 'Availing' and 'availed' come from the verb 'avail' (to use or take advantage of), which has a completely different meaning from the adjective 'available'.

#### 18. “to win” (b)

After superlatives ('youngest', 'oldest', 'best') and ordinals ('first', 'last'), the to-infinitive reduces the relative clause: 'who won' → 'to win'. This is a standard pattern expressing factual achievement. 'Winning' (present participle) does not correctly convey the achievement sense required after a superlative. 'Won' would read as a past tense main verb, and 'having won' is non-standard in this position.

#### 19. “believed” (c)

The past participle 'believed' reduces 'who is believed to have been involved' — a passive construction meaning 'people believe him to be involved'. 'Believing' (active) would completely change the meaning to 'the man who believes', making the man himself the believer rather than the one being suspected. This active/passive distinction is a critical C1-level skill.

## 20. “having undergone” (d)

The perfect participle 'having undergone' reduces the non-defining clause 'which had undergone several rounds of layoffs'. The perfect participle indicates the layoffs were completed before the announcement — a key temporal distinction at C1 level. 'Undergoing' (present participle) would wrongly imply the layoffs were still in progress. 'Underwent' is a finite past tense verb and cannot function as a participle. 'Undergone' alone (without 'having') is incomplete.