

“Essential IELTS Language: That, Which, Who” @ <http://www.youtube.com/ESL4free>

The advantages of tourism to an under-developed country far outweigh any possible disadvantages. Do you agree with this point of view?

Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your knowledge and experience.

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We will look at some of the words used to construct complex sentences. Terms looked at are:

That  
Which  
Who

Complex sentences are essential for a high IELTS score. For example, “A friend could not find work for many years. He got a job at a new resort near his village.” should be “A friend who could not find work for many years got a job at a new resort near his village.”

We will focus on some sentences used as relevant examples for a Task Two essay on tourism in under-developed countries.

- 1: A friend who could not find work for many years got a job at a new resort near his village.
- 2: Many people who had no jobs where able to find work at the new resort.
- 3: A friend that could not find work for many years got a job at a new resort near his village.
- 4: Many people that had no jobs where able to find work at the new resort.

1 & 2: “Who” is used to define a person or a number of people, and introduces a clause that provides essential information to the overall meaning of the sentence (“who could not find work for many years” and “who could not find work”).

3 & 4: “That” can be used in place of “who” when talking about people.

5: A resort which was recently built near my home village provides work for many of my friends.

6: A resort that was recently built near my home village provides work for many of my friends.

5: When talking about things, “which” is used instead of “who”.

6: However, “that” can also be used in place of “which”.

1 to 6: “Who” “which” and “that” in all the examples so far have been used to define the subject of the sentence.



- 7: The resort provided the first full-time job my friend has had.
- 8: The resort provided the first full-time job that my friend has had.
- 9: The resort provided the first full-time job which my friend has had.
- 10: The golf course the company built has 18 holes.
- 11: The golf course that the company built has 18 holes.

7 to 11: In these examples “that” and “which” are used to define the object of a sentence - “my friend” and “the golf course”.

7 & 10: Note that “that” and “which” can sometime be left out when referring to the object without changing the meaning.

- 12: The hotel interviewed many people who live in the village.
- 13: The hotel interviewed many people that live in the village.
- 14: The hotel interviewed many people living in the village.

14: In some cases, however, a verb that defines an object needs to change to be grammatically correct if “who”, “that” or “which” are left out. You cannot say “The hotel interviewed many people live in the village.”

- 15: Many of my friends who are employed by the resort say it is a good place to work.
- 16: A number of my friends, who I write to occasionally, say the resort had brought many jobs to the area.
- 17: A resort which has been built near my home village provides jobs for many of my friends.
- 18: The resort, which accommodates thousands of guests a year, has brought many economic benefits to the nearby villages.

15 & 17: In these examples the clauses beginning with “who” or “which” are used to define the “friends” or “the resort”. Note, “That” can replace both “who” and “which” in these types of clauses.

16 & 18: The use of commas surrounding the clauses in these examples show that they are non-defining. Extra information, such as “who I write to occasionally” and “which accommodates thousands of guests a year” is not important to the overall meaning of the sentence. In non-defining clauses “that” cannot be used in place of “who” or “which”.