Arabic B1, lesson 17: relative clauses

الَّذي who, which (m. sg.)	الَّتي who, which (f. sg.)	الَّذينَ who (pl. m.)
مَنْ he who (people)	ما what (things)	اِمْتِحان exam
حَدَّثَ he told	ساعَدَ he helped	فَعَلَ he did
شَخْص		

person

هَذا هُوَ الصَّديقُ الَّذي حَدَّثْتُكَ عَنْهُ.

هُوَ الطّالِبُ الَّذي نَجَحَ في الاِمْتِحانِ.

وَهَذِهِ هِيَ المُعَلِّمَةُ الَّتي دَرَّسَتْهُ.

أَعْرِفُ مَنْ ساعَدَهُ وَما فَعَلَ.

▶ **Show the translation**

A relative clause describes a **definite** noun with a **relative pronoun** (اِسْم مَوْصول) that agrees with that noun:

- الَّذي (m. sg.), الَّتي (f. sg.), اللَّذانِ / اللَّذَيْنِ (dual m.), اللَّتانِ / اللَّتَيْنِ (dual f.), الَّذينَ (pl. m.), اللَّواتي (pl. f.)
- مَنْ (who, people) and ما (what, things) have no antecedent: أَعْرِفُ مَنْ ساعَدَهُ.

In the relative clause, if the antecedent is the **object** of the relative verb, a **resumptive pronoun** (عائِد) is added: الكِتابُ الَّذي قَرَأْتُهُ (the book that I read it → that I read). If the

antecedent is the subject, no pronoun: الطّالِبُ الَّذي نَجَحَ.

With an **indefinite** noun no relative pronoun is used: هَذا كِتابٌ قَرَأْتُهُ (this is a book I read).

The relative pronoun has the article built in and barely declines; the verb of the relative clause agrees with its own subject.

The relative pronouns

Antecedent	Pronoun	Example
m. sg.	الَّذي	الطّالِبُ الَّذي نَجَحَ
f. sg.	الَّتي	المُعَلِّمَةُ الَّتي دَرَّسَتْ
dual m.	اللَّذانِ	الطّالِبانِ اللَّذانِ نَجَحا
dual f.	اللَّتانِ	الطّالِبَتانِ اللَّتانِ نَجَحَتا
pl. m.	الَّذينَ	الطُّلّابُ الَّذينَ نَجَحوا
pl. f.	اللَّواتي	الطّالِباتُ اللَّواتي نَجَحْنَ

Match each noun with the right relative pronoun.

الطّالِب	الَّذي

الَّتي	المُعَلِّمَة
اللَّواتي	الطُّلّاب
الَّذينَ	الطّالِبانِ
اللَّذانِ	الطّالِبات

Check Start again

Describe three people or objects from your day with three different relatives (الَّذي, الَّتي, الَّذينَ).

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