

SHORT-FORM RELATIVE CLAUSES (I)

A relative clause containing a *passive* verb can be shortened as follows:

- (a) Glycogen *which has been stored in the liver* can be reconverted into glucose.
- (b) Glycogen *stored in the liver* can be reconverted into glucose.

A relative clause containing an *active* verb can be shortened as follows:

- (c) Mucous membrane lines spaces *which communicate with the outside of the body*.
- (d) Mucous membrane lines spaces *communicating with the outside of the body*.

12. Change the relative clauses in the following sentences as in examples (b) and (d) above.

N.B. Retain commas when the clause is non-defining*.

1. Iron, which is found in meat, eggs, beans and peas, is an essential part of the diet.
2. The acidity of chyme in the duodenum is reduced by bile, a substance which is produced by the liver.
3. The cells which form the islets of Langerhans have no ducts.
4. The oesophagus is a tube which leads from the pharynx to the stomach.
5. The envelope which encloses haemoglobin is a semi-permeable membrane.
6. Fat which has been absorbed into the lacteals passes into the bloodstream at the left internal jugular vein.
7. The matrix of bone is made up of an inorganic material, which contains calcium phosphate.
8. The mandible is made up of two halves, which fuse at the midline to form the chin.
9. Most of the energy which is required by the body is derived from carbo-hydrates and fats.
10. The intestine receives food which is already partly digested.
11. The cytoplasm of a neutrophil contains numerous granules which are stained with acid and basic dyes.
12. Pepsin and hydrochloric acid are among constituents of the juice which is secreted by the stomach.
13. The epithelium which lines the urinary passages is referred to as transitional epithelium.
14. Bulk in the faeces may be provided by cellulose, which is taken in the diet.
15. Reticular tissue is a special type of areolar tissue, which consists of a loose network of fine collagen fibres.

* The information in a *non-defining* relative clause is not essential to the understanding of the rest of the sentence. The non-defining relative clause only adds extra information to the sentence. It is separated from the rest of the sentence by commas. The information in the *defining* relative clauses is essential to the correct understanding of the rest of the sentence. (Read the sentence, omitting the relative clause, and you will see how necessary the relative clauses are.)