



“Which” Referring back to a Whole Clause

Practice 1

Instructions. Based on [this lesson](#), identify what the relative pronoun “which” refers back to. It may refer back to a word in the preceding clause or to the whole preceding clause.

When you are done, see “Answer Key” to check your answers.

1. Senator Ecks was reelected despite a turbulent political campaign, **which** surprised all political experts.
a. main clause b. political campaign
2. We found a mistake in line 12 of the program code, **which** means all other 912 lines of code need to be corrected.
a. main clause b. program code
3. The Johnsons have been spending a great deal of money, **which** seems to indicate that their business is doing very well.
a. main clause b. money
4. The Johnsons bought a million-dollar house, **which** was built during the Civil War.
a. main clause b. house
5. Programmers have found a glitch, **which** has been causing a great deal of problems for users of the app.
a. main clause b. a glitch
6. The researchers found a problem in their methodology, **which** may invalidate the whole study.
a. main clause b. methodology
7. They also found a problem in the statistical analyses, **which** included the wrong variables.
a. main clause b. statistical analyses
8. A growing number of Americans do not trust the news media, **which** points to the need for journalists to be impartial when reporting the news.
a. main clause b. the news media
9. Independent journalists offer different perspectives on the news, **which** does not necessarily mean they are more trustworthy.
a. main clause b. perspectives
10. Senator Ecks has announced his retirement, **which** no one expected him to do so soon.
a. main clause b. his retirement

Answer Key

1. a. main clause
2. a. main clause
3. a. main clause
4. b. a million dollar house
5. b. a glitch
6. a. main clause
7. b. statistical analyses
8. b. main clause
9. a. main clause
10. a. main clause

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