

Relative Adverbs

Where, when and why are relative adverbs, because they introduce a relative clause. Relative adverbs join sentences or clauses.

Where

The relative adverb, '**where**', is used after a noun that refers to a place.

Examples:

That is the house **where** Jim lives.

I visited Paris **where** I saw the Eiffel Tower.

That is the church **where** my parents got married.



The relative adverb, 'where', can be replaced by: 'in which' and 'at which'.

When

The relative adverb, '**when**', is used after a noun that refers to a time or date.

Examples:

I don't remember the day **when** I first met Harry.

February and October are months **when** many people have birthdays.

The best time of year is summer **when** we can swim at the beach.



The relative adverb, 'when', can be replaced by: 'in which' and 'on which'.

Why

The relative adverb, 'why', is used after a noun that refers to a reason.

Examples:

I don't know why Sam cried.

The reason why I didn't phone you was that my phone was broken.

Michelle had no excuse why she didn't do her homework.



The relative adverb, 'why', can be replaced by: 'for which' or 'the reason for which'.