

## B1 TEENS

# What Makes a Hero?

Defining and describing people using relative clauses

B1 Intermediate | Grammar | Reading | 40 min

## ★ Lesson Objectives

- ✓ Read about different types of heroes -- real, fictional and ordinary
- ✓ Learn vocabulary for character, courage and achievement
- ✓ Use defining relative clauses with who, which, that, where, whose
- ✓ Combine two sentences into one using relative pronouns
- ✓ Discuss what heroism means and whether ordinary people can be heroes
- ✓ Write a description of someone you admire using relative clauses

## 1 Before You Read

▶ Who is your hero? Famous person, fictional character, or someone you know?

▶ What qualities does a hero need? Think of three words.

▶ Can ordinary people be heroes, or must you do something extraordinary?

## 2 Reading: Heroes Among Us

### Heroes Among Us

When you hear the word "hero," what do you picture? For many people, it's a character from a film -- someone who wears a cape and saves the world. But real heroism looks very different. A hero is a person who does the right thing, even when it's difficult. And sometimes, the most powerful acts of heroism come from the most ordinary people.

In 2018, Mamoudou Gassama, a young man from Mali who was living in Paris, saw a four-year-old child hanging from the balcony of a fourth-floor apartment. Without thinking, he climbed the outside of the building with his bare hands and rescued the child in under a minute. The video, which was filmed by a bystander, went viral and was watched over 15 million times. Gassama, who had no training in climbing or rescue work, was hailed as the "Spider-Man of Paris." The French president, who was impressed by his bravery, offered him French citizenship.

But heroism doesn't always involve dramatic rescues. Consider Greta Thunberg, a teenager from Sweden who started skipping school every Friday to protest outside parliament about climate change. What began as a one-person protest grew into a global movement that inspired millions of young people around the world. Thunberg, who was just fifteen when she started, showed that you don't need to be strong or powerful to make a difference -- you just need to care enough to act.

Then there are the heroes that nobody talks about -- the everyday heroes. The teacher who stays late to help a struggling student. The neighbour who checks on an elderly person that lives alone. The older sibling who sacrifices their free time to look after their younger brothers and sisters. These are people whose actions never make the news, but whose kindness changes lives.

Psychologist Dr. Ayesha Malik, who has studied heroism for over a decade, says there are three qualities that all heroes share. "First, empathy -- they notice when someone is in trouble. Second, courage -- they act even when they are afraid. Third, selflessness -- they put other people's needs before their own." According to Malik, anyone can develop these qualities. "Heroism is not something that you are born with. It's something that you practise every day."

So maybe the question is not "What makes a hero?" but rather "What kind of hero do you want to be?"

### 3 Vocabulary

Word	Definition	Example
<b>hero/heroine</b>	person admired for bravery	"A real hero to her community."
<b>heroism</b>	great bravery	"His heroism saved three lives."
<b>courage</b>	ability to do something scary	"It takes courage to speak up."
<b>bravery</b>	brave behaviour	"Praised for his bravery."
<b>selflessness</b>	caring more about others	"Her selflessness inspired everyone."
<b>empathy</b>	understanding others' feelings	"Empathy is the first step."
<b>sacrifice</b>	give up something for others	"Sacrificed her free time."
<b>admire</b>	respect and look up to	"I admire people who help."
<b>rescue</b>	save from danger	"Rescued the child."
<b>inspire</b>	fill with desire to do something	"Her story inspired millions."
<b>bystander</b>	person watching without acting	"A bystander filmed the rescue."
<b>citizenship</b>	legal right to belong to a country	"Offered French citizenship."
<b>protest</b>	action expressing disapproval	"Protested outside parliament."

Word	Definition	Example
<b>movement</b>	group working for a cause	"A global movement."
<b>stand up for</b>	defend or support	"Stand up for what's right."
<b>make a difference</b>	have positive effect	"One person can make a difference."

Collocations: act of heroism • show courage • make a difference • stand up for • look up to • everyday hero • save a life • put others first

## 4 Grammar: Defining Relative Clauses

**who (people):** "A hero is a person who does the right thing."

**which (things):** "The video, which was filmed by a bystander, went viral."

**that (people/things):** "A movement that inspired millions."

**where (places):** "The school where I study is large."

**whose (possession):** "People whose actions never make the news."

Pronoun	Used For	Example
who	people (subject)	The teacher who helped me.
which	things / animals	The film which we watched.
that	people or things (informal)	The person that called.
where	places	The school where I study.
whose	possession	The girl whose dog ran away.

### Combining Two Sentences

"She is a doctor." + "She saved my life." = "She is a doctor who saved my life."

"I read a book." + "It changed my thinking." = "I read a book that changed my thinking."

"This is the park." + "We met there." = "This is the park where we met."

**⚠ Common Mistakes**

~~The man which helped me.~~ → The man who/that helped me. (who for people)

~~The school who I go to.~~ → The school where/that I go to. (where for places)

~~The boy whose his dad is a doctor.~~ → The boy whose dad is a doctor. (no extra possessive)

**5 Match the Halves**

#	Beginning	Ending
1	A hero is a person who	puts others before themselves.
2	The video which went viral	showed a man climbing a building.
3	She's the teenager that	started a global climate movement.
4	The hospital where my mum works	is the biggest in the city.
5	He's someone whose courage	inspires everyone around him.
6	The teacher who stayed late	helped me pass my exam.
7	This is the park where	volunteers planted 500 trees.
8	The book that I'm reading	is about everyday heroes.
9	People whose jobs involve risk	deserve our respect.
10	The charity which she founded	has helped over 10,000 families.

**6 Comprehension Quiz**

**1. What did Mamoudou Gassama do?**

Answer: Climbed a building to save a child

**2. What reward did Gassama receive?**

Answer: French citizenship

**3. How old was Greta Thunberg when she started?**

Answer: Fifteen

**4. The three qualities of a hero (Dr. Malik)?**

Answer: Empathy, courage, selflessness

**5. 'The man who saved the child' -- who refers to...**

Answer: People

**6. 'The park where we met' -- where refers to...**

Answer: Places

**7. Combine: 'She is a nurse.' + 'She saved my life.'**

Answer: She is a nurse who saved my life.

### 8. Which is WRONG?

Answer: The girl which won the prize is my friend.

## 7 Fill in the Blanks

Word Bank: who • which • that • where • whose

1. A hero is someone \_\_\_\_\_ puts others first.
2. The video \_\_\_\_\_ went viral showed the rescue.
3. This is the school \_\_\_\_\_ she studied.
4. The man \_\_\_\_\_ bravery saved the child was from Mali.
5. She's the person \_\_\_\_\_ inspired millions.
6. The charity \_\_\_\_\_ he founded helps refugees.
7. The park \_\_\_\_\_ volunteers planted trees is nearby.
8. People \_\_\_\_\_ jobs are dangerous deserve respect.

Answers: 1. who • 2. which • 3. where • 4. whose • 5. that • 6. which • 7. where • 8. whose

## 8 Speaking & Writing

### ◆ Discussion Questions

Who is the biggest hero in your life? Use relative clauses.

Can villains be more interesting than heroes? Why?

Is it possible to be a hero on social media?

Can teenagers change the world? Give examples.

'Real heroes do small things with great love.' Agree?

◆ **Example Dialogue**

A: Who's your hero?

B: My grandmother. She's a woman who raised five children on her own.

A: Mine is a teacher who I had in primary school.

B: What made him special?

A: He was someone whose patience changed my life.

B: I think everyday heroes are the ones who deserve the most respect.

✍ **Writing Task**

Write 80-120 words about someone you admire. Use at least 4 relative clauses:

Option A: Describe a hero -- real or fictional. What did they do? Why do you admire them?

Option B: Describe an everyday hero in your life.

**9 Hero Builder — The Game**

Interactive game available online. Choose the correct relative pronoun in 10 hero sentences!

#	Sentence	Answer
1	A firefighter is a person ___ risks their life.	who
2	The building ___ was on fire collapsed.	which
3	This is the hospital ___ my sister was born.	where
4	He's the man ___ daughter won the prize.	whose
5	The charity ___ she started helped thousands.	that
6	A volunteer is someone ___ gives time for free.	who
7	The country ___ he grew up had no clean water.	where
8	She's the activist ___ speech changed everything.	whose
9	The medal ___ he received was for bravery.	that
10	People ___ show empathy make the world better.	who

**10 Review Checklist**

- ✓ I can understand a text about different types of heroes
- ✓ I can use vocabulary for character, courage and achievement
- ✓ I can use relative clauses with who, which, that, where, whose
- ✓ I can combine two sentences using relative pronouns
- ✓ I can discuss what heroism means
- ✓ I can write about someone I admire using relative clauses

# Congratulations!

You have completed this lesson: What Makes a Hero?