What are relative adverbs and relative pronouns?

**A relative adverb** is an adverb which introduces a relative clause. The English relative adverbs are: *where, when, whenever* and *wherever*.

The house *where* I live in is very small.
I will never forget the day *when* I met Jane.
Susie takes her cell phone *wherever* she goes.
I read books *whenever* I get time.

**Relative pronoun**

*A relative pronoun* is a pronoun which introduces a relative clause. Examples are: *who, whom, which* and *whose*. *That* is also sometimes used to introduce a relative clause. The use of a relative pronoun is usually optional in English. In informal English, it is usually omitted. In the following examples the optional relative pronoun appears in parentheses.

The necklace (*which*) my mother bought for me was very expensive.
The man (*who*) you were talking to is my father.

In the following examples, the relative pronouns *who* and *whose* are obligatory and cannot be omitted.

The woman *who* was sitting next to me is my aunt. (NOT The woman was sitting next to me is my aunt.)
The boy *whose* sister works with me is a good singer. (NOT The boy sister works with me is a good singer.)

**Notes**

A relative clause is a kind of subordinate clause which is attached to a noun within a noun phrase. A relative clause can be defining or non-defining. A defining relative clause is required to identify the noun it is attached to. In contrast, a non-defining relative clause is not required for identification; it only provides additional information.