"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