



基础篇

英语阅读

ENGLISH READING

主编：刘 辉

外语教学与研究出版社
FOREIGN LANGUAGE TEACHING AND RESEARCH PRESS

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前言

《英语阅读 基础篇》是根据教育部颁发的《大学英语课程教学要求》为外语类高等院校非英语专业一年级学生编写的大学英语基础课教材，由北京第二外国语学院应用英语学院的老师们编写。

本教材的课文为英美国家作者的原文，为适合教学目的对个别部分做了删节和改动。课文绝大多数选自20世纪90年代以来国外原版的杂志、报刊和其他读物。文章的类型包括记叙文、描述文、说明文和论说文，涉及的主题包括社会、生活、文化、科技，以及人文、道德、哲理等。我们认为外语学习应该有助于增加学生的通识知识，培养学生的跨文化交际能力，提高其人文素养，为此，我们在选材上十分注意语言的规范性、体裁的多样性，以及课文内容的人文性、可思性和前瞻性。

由于《英语阅读 基础篇》是外语类高等院校非英语专业学生基础阶段的综合英语课程的教材，该课程旨在全面提高学生的听说读写译等各个方面的能力。本册教材中共有14个单元，每个单元由主题相关的两篇文章组成。课文1为精读材料，配有课文理解、词汇、语法、翻译、写作、口语训练等多种练习；课文2为泛读材料，供学生扩展思维及语言知识所用。

由于时间仓促，加上水平有限，本教材还存在一些问题。我们真诚地希望同行专家和广大教师、学生不吝赐教。

编者

2013年5月

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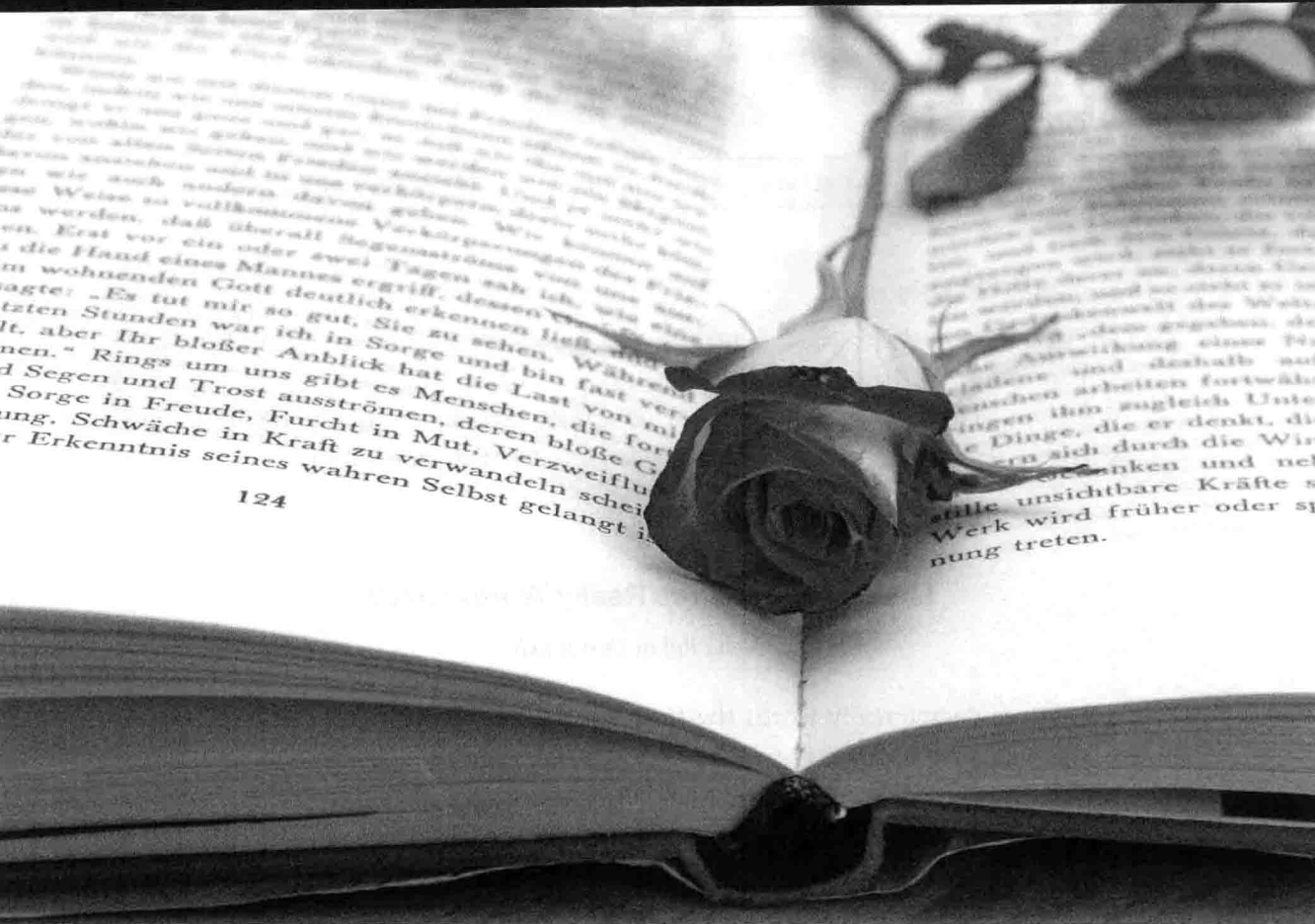
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Unit 1



Memorable Quotes

"Education is the transmission of civilization."

~ Will Durant

"What sculpture is to a block of marble, education is to the human soul."

~ Joseph Addison

"Those who educate children well are more to be honored than parents, for these only gave them life, those the art of living well."

~ Aristotle

Text 1

Key Words

college degree	education	money	success
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Pre-reading Questions

- 1 Do you think a college degree is necessary to become wealthy or successful? Why or why not?
- 2 Have you achieved the sort of college education you expected? If yes, give some examples and if not, talk about what you want to learn at your college.

Is a College Degree Really Worthwhile?

By Neha Rajan Deshmukh¹

"Is a college degree really worth the time and money spent?" is quite a question of debate. One may have his own views. Yet, there are certain facts which no one would deny. Read on, to find more.

A recent study **reveals** that 60% of the undergraduate American students agreed that the college degree is worth it. The remaining 40% were either in a **dilemma**² or were pretty sure that a college degree is not worth the time and money spent. **Hence**, it all **sums up** to one's own personal choice³. But, can an individual **survive** without experiencing the college life even for a day? Is that really possible? If yes, what do those students achieve who do take a degree from college? And, if not, then what are the future **prospects** for such students? Indeed, tough questions to answer!

One Side of the Coin: Tail

It is believed that students who belong to rich families find it very easy to afford the **expenditure** that a college degree requires. Rest others have to **apply for** educational **loans** which they **keep on repaying** for years to come. Also, whether they actually like the subjects being taught in the degree course is another matter of concern⁴. After gaining a degree from the college, there is no **guarantee** that a student will get a job. Obviously, it will be a thing to worry for the parents and the students as well. After all, who would wish to lose thousands of dollars as the cost of college education and not get any source to gain the money back? Some students wish to gain a degree just for the purpose of **satisfaction**. Some do it for economic benefits. Some just do it because they have to! **Numerous** reasons, numerous facts and

numerous viewpoints! Hence, there are people who have **come to a conclusion** that they can teach their children the necessary subjects at home and **skip** the college **entirely**. Thus the debate, “Is a college degree worth it?”

Experts say that in some years, there might be a situation when colleges will simply **shrink** in size as most of the students would prefer doing a business and thus learn through practical experience. Bill Gates is one such personality who never had any college degree, rather was a college **dropout**, yet managed to become what he is today. But, the question is, can you **invest** a certain **capital** in a business which you hardly have experienced before? Isn't that a bigger risk than gaining a college degree and then not getting a job? Above all, what can one say about the **overall** development of a student? Any country wants the best doctors, engineers, lawyers, scientists, teachers and leaders to serve their country and society. But, if none of them are provided the college education, it is surely tough to bring out the best in them. Who **turns out** to be the looser: these capable individuals or the society as an **entity**⁵? Practically speaking, the **reliability** and trust a patient has in the doctor may be lost. So, as **previously** discussed, it all sums up to one's own point of view.

Other Side of the Coin: Head

Some people ask, “Is a college degree necessary for success?” Now, this is quite an **answerable** question⁶. No, a college degree is not necessary for “success”, but is surely a **requisite** to gain knowledge and **moral** values. The **exposure** that a student gets in a college can never be **replicated** anywhere else. It is unique and will remain the same. The kind of social **interaction** in which a student **involves** in a college is one of its kind⁷. In the course of gaining a degree from the college, there are **innumerable** experiences which a student **encounters** and which cannot be taught or experienced somewhere else. A student gets to hear a lot of experts in various fields. His thoughts, ideas and likes are **channelized** in a proper way. If there is nobody to guide, he is sure to get confused and lost in the market of numerous career **options**. A student with a graduate and a postgraduate degree is always preferred over the one who is not educationally **qualified**. He is sure to get more **promotional** chances as well. The global economy is so competitive today that a student needs a well qualified **academic** background to survive and **sustain**. And, it is not only about getting a job, but also about learning the **ethics** and morals which he wouldn't have learned that well otherwise.

President Mr. Barack Obama has **sanctioned** billions of dollars to **promote** college education in the U.S.A.. There are many jobs in the fields of research and technology which are vacant because of lack of skilled and trained people. Hence, it is a matter of concern for the overall development of an individual and also for the country as a whole. The American government **grants scholarships** to the students who are really willing to study but are finding it difficult to **cope up with** the **financial** requirements. As previously mentioned, Bill Gates is such an example who never gained a college degree yet became **enormously** successful. That was because, he knew his field of interest and was capable to manage it. Practically speaking, is that possible with every single student who knows how to handle a

computer? An overall development and growth of a student is possible when he gains proper **theoretical** and practical knowledge from the college. An educationally qualified student is more confident and he knows his worth. He can survive in the world of competition. That is why, you will find so many of foreign students come to the U.S.A. to study further.

Is it wrong to start early and make money than go to college? Of course not, but ask yourself, whether you want to make your millions by building or inventing something useful for the society. Well, coming back to reality which is nowadays, **money-oriented**, paying the college fees is surely a tough task. But, **on a personal note**, it is worth it! You can **definitely** gain much more than the fees that you paid in your life!

Words & Expressions	
reveal /rɪ'veɪl/ <i>v.</i>	to make sth known to sb 透露, 揭示
dilemma /dɪ'lemə/ <i>n.</i>	a situation which makes problems, often one in which you have to make a very difficult choice between things of equal importance 困境, 进退两难
hence /hens/ <i>adv.</i>	因此, 从此
sum up	总结
survive /sə'vaɪv/ <i>v.</i>	to continue to live or exist 存活
prospect /'prɒspekt/ <i>n.</i>	the chances of being successful 前景
expenditure /ɪk'spendɪtʃə/ <i>n.</i>	the act of spending or using money; an amount of money spent 开支, 费用
apply for	申请
loan /ləʊn/ <i>n.</i>	money that an organization such as a bank lends and sb borrows 贷款
keep on	继续进行
repay /rɪ'peɪ/ <i>v.</i>	to pay back the money that you have borrowed from sb 偿还
guarantee /ˌɡærən'ti:/ <i>n.</i>	a formal promise that sth will be done or will happen 正式的承诺, 保证
satisfaction /ˌsætɪs'fækʃən/ <i>n.</i>	the good feeling that you have when you have achieved sth or when sth that you wanted to happen does happen 满意
numerous /'nju:mərəs/ <i>adj.</i>	existing in large numbers 大量的, 许多的
come to a conclusion	得出结论
skip /skip/ <i>v.</i>	to not do sth that you usually do or should do 跳过, 略过

entirely /ɪn'taɪəli/ <i>adv.</i>	in every way possible; completely 完全地, 全部地
shrink /ʃrɪŋk/ <i>v.</i>	to become or to make sth smaller in size or amount 收缩, 萎缩
dropout /'drɒpɔʊt/ <i>n.</i>	a person who leaves school or college before they have finished their studies 退学学生
invest /ɪn'vest/ <i>v.</i>	to spend money on sth in order to make it better or more successful 投资
capital /'kæpɪtl/ <i>n.</i>	a large amount of money that is invested or is used to start a business 资本
overall /,əʊvər'ɔ:l/ <i>adj.</i>	including all the things or people that are involved in a particular situation; general 全部的, 全面的
turn out	最后是, 结果是
entity /'entɪti/ <i>n.</i>	sth that exists as a single and complete unit 实体
reliability /rɪ'ləɪə'bɪləti/ <i>n.</i>	sb or sth that is reliable can be trusted or depended on 可靠性
previously /'pri:vɪəsli/ <i>adv.</i>	before now or before a particular time 先前
answerable /'ɑ:nsərəbəl/ <i>adj.</i>	(of a question) that can be answered 可回答的
requisite /'rekwɪzɪt/ <i>n.</i>	sth that you need for a particular purpose 必需品, 要素
moral /'mɒrəl/ <i>adj.</i>	concerned with principles of right and wrong behavior 与道德相关的
exposure /ɪk'spəʊʒə/ <i>n.</i>	the chance to experience new ideas, ways of life etc 经历
replicate /'replɪkeɪt/ <i>v.</i>	to copy sth exactly 复制
interaction /,ɪntər'ækʃən/ <i>n.</i>	a process by which two or more things affect each other 相互作用, 互动
involve /ɪn'vɒlv/ <i>v.</i>	to include or affect sb or sth 涉及到
innumerable /ɪ'nju:mərəbəl/ <i>adj.</i>	too many to be counted; very many 无数的, 数不清的
encounter /ɪn'kaʊntə/ <i>v.</i>	to meet sb, or discover or experience sth, especially sb/sth new, unusual or unexpected 遭遇, 遇到
channelize /'tʃænl,aɪz/ <i>v.</i>	疏导
option /'ɒpʃən/ <i>n.</i>	sth that you can choose to have or do; the freedom to choose what you do 选择; 选择权
qualified /'kwɒlɪfaɪd/ <i>adj.</i>	having the practical knowledge or skills to do sth 有资格的, 有条件的

promotional /prə'məʊʃənəl/ <i>adj.</i>	增进的, 升职的
academic /ækə'demɪk/ <i>adj.</i>	involving a lot of reading and studying rather than practical or technical skills 学术的
sustain /sə'steɪn/ <i>v.</i>	to provide enough of what sb/sth needs in order to live or exist 维持, 供养
ethics /'eθɪks/ <i>n.</i>	道德规范, 伦理
sanction /'sæŋkʃən/ <i>v.</i>	to give permission for sth to take place 认可, 批准
promote /prə'məʊt/ <i>v.</i>	to help sth to happen or develop 促进, 推广
grant /gra:nt/ <i>v.</i>	to agree to give sb what they ask for, especially formal or legal permission to do sth 授予
scholarship /'skɒləʃɪp/ <i>n.</i>	an amount of money that an organization gives to sb so that they can study at a particular school or university 奖学金
cope up with	解决, 处理
financial /fɪ'nænʃəl/ <i>adj.</i>	connected with money 财政的, 与金钱相关的
enormously /ɪ'nɔ:məsli/ <i>adv.</i>	very much 非常地
theoretical /θɪə'retɪkəl/ <i>adj.</i>	concerned with the ideas and principles on which a particular subject is based, rather than with practice and experiment 理论上的
money-oriented	一切向钱看的
on a personal note	从个人角度讲
definitely /'defɪnɪtli/ <i>adv.</i>	a way of emphasizing that sth is true and that there is no doubt about it 明确无疑地, 清楚地

Notes

1. **Neha Rajan Deshmukh:** Neha Rajan Deshmukh is one of the many authors on Buzzle.com who creates interesting and thought-provoking content for the readers' enjoyment. She says, "Writing has always been a passion for me! It is as good as scribbling something on the paper and creating a beautiful picture out of it! Nothing can content me more than writing!"
2. **The remaining 40% were either in a dilemma...:** Some of the remaining 40% of American undergraduate students were not sure whether a college degree was worth the time and money spent or not.
3. **Hence, it all sums up to one's own personal choice:** Therefore, it all depends on people's personal choice.
4. **...another matter of concern:** ...another thing worthy of being paid attention to

5. ...as an entity: ...as a whole
6. ...this is quite an answerable question: ...this question is easy to answer
7. one of its kind: unique

Text Comprehension

- I. Which of the following statements best states the author's purpose of writing?
 - A. The author explicates the importance of learning from real life rather than books.
 - B. The author holds the idea that going to college is a waste of time and money.
 - C. The author demonstrates that the American educational system is successful.
 - D. The author argues that it is still worthwhile to receive college education.
- II. Judge, according to the text, whether the following statements are true or false.
 1. Forty percent of the undergraduate American students were pretty sure that a college degree is not worth the time and money spent.
 2. It is a tough question to answer whether an individual can survive without experiencing college education even for a day.
 3. People hold different opinions on the necessity of receiving college education.
 4. Young people should pay more attention to practical skills rather than knowledge gained from books.
 5. Although a college degree is not necessary for "success", young people need to acquire knowledge and moral values through college education.
 6. The experience in college is unique and cannot be replicated.
 7. Every man can become Bill Gates as long as he gains proper theoretical and practical knowledge.
 8. The author doesn't give the answer to the question posed in the beginning.
- III. Explain in your own words the following sentences.
 1. The remaining 40% were either in a dilemma or were pretty sure that a college degree is not worth the time and money spent. Hence, it all sums up to one's own personal choice.
 2. Some students wish to gain a degree just for the purpose of satisfaction.
 3. The exposure that a student gets in a college can never be replicated anywhere else.
 4. The kind of social interaction in which a student involves in a college is one of its kind.
 5. But, on a personal note, it is worth it!

Vocabulary Exercises

- I. Explain the underlined part in each sentence in your own words.
 1. Hence, it all sums up to one's own personal choice.
 2. Who turns out to be the looser: these capable individuals or the society as an entity?
 3. The exposure that a student gets in a college can never be replicated anywhere else.

4. His thoughts, ideas and likes are channelized in a proper way.
5. A student with a graduate and a postgraduate degree is always preferred over the one who is not educationally qualified.
6. It is a matter of concern for the overall development of an individual and also for the country as a whole.
7. But, on a personal note, it is worth it!

II. Fill in the blank in each sentence with a word or phrase taken from the box in its appropriate form.

prospect	guarantee	dilemma	hence	moral	encounter
overall	financial	expenditure	previously		

1. I _____ an old friend at Rome.
2. Our _____ opposed views are beginning to converge.
3. Many women are faced with the _____ of choosing between work and family commitments.
4. We cannot _____ the punctual arrival of trains in foggy weather.
5. We don't want all the details now, just the _____ picture.
6. His behavior transgressed the _____ rules of the social conduct.
7. What are the _____ of promotion in this job?
8. An announcement of further cuts in government _____ is imminent.
9. The cost of transport is a major expense for an industry. _____, factory location is an important consideration.
10. Tokyo and New York are major _____ centers.

III. Choose the best answer from A, B, C, and D to complete each of the following sentences.

1. No one knew the man's age until he _____ it by accident.
A. displayed B. revealed C. exhibited D. exposed
2. To survive in the intense market competition, we must _____ the qualities and varieties of products we make to the world-market demand.
A. improve B. guarantee C. gear D. enhance
3. The reason that his property was confiscated by the country, it _____, was that he was involved in a lot of fraudulent activities during the war.
A. was turned out B. was being turned out
C. being turned out D. turned out
4. After so many weeks without rain, the ground quickly _____ the little rain that fell last night.
A. skipped B. soaked C. retrieved D. absorbed

5. This ticket _____ you to a free meal in our new restaurant.
A. gives B. grants C. entitles D. credits
6. Price is determined through the _____ of demand and supply.
A. cooperation B. interaction C. collaboration D. proportion
7. Our ancestors have to _____ cold, hunger as well as attack from wild animals.
A. cope with B. handle with C. tackle with D. settle with
8. The treasury issued an order stating that _____ land purchased from the government had to be paid for in gold and silver.
A. henceforth B. moreover C. whereby D. however
9. Your service is entirely _____, not compulsory.
A. selective B. optional C. voluntary D. reluctant
10. My cat is a fussy eater, but my dog is so _____ that she'll swallow down anything that is put in front of her.
A. indiscriminate B. choosy C. indefinite D. picky

IV. Fill in each blank with one of the two words from each pair in its appropriate form and note the difference in meaning between them.

1. reveal expose

- a. Government employees swear an oath not to _____ official secrets.
- b. It's very foolish of the commander to _____ his men to unnecessary risks.
- c. Do not _____ babies to strong sunlight.
- d. The doctors did not _____ the truth to him.

2. guarantee assure

- a. I can _____ you that your son will be happy here.
- b. These days getting a degree doesn't _____ you a job.
- c. We _____ him of our loyal support.
- d. Blue skies are not a _____ of continuing fine weather.

3. overall entire

- a. The _____ content of a book will be located on a single silicon chip.
- b. I have never in my _____ life heard such nonsense!
- c. _____, this is a very useful book.
- d. We don't want all the details now, just the _____ picture.

4. encounter confront

- a. A fortunate _____ brought the two friends together after a long separation.
- b. A soldier often has to _____ danger.
- c. I first _____ him when studying at Cambridge.
- d. They _____ the prisoner with his accusers.

5. skip leap

- a. She decided to _____ the afternoon's class.
- b. There has been a great _____ in the number of births in these past five years.
- c. "Look before you _____" is a maxim.
- d. She kept _____ from one topic of conversation to another.

V. Fill in the blank in each of the following sentences with an appropriate form of the given capitalized word in brackets.

1. Certain courses are compulsory, others are _____. (OPTION)
2. Our aim is to achieve a _____ outcome for everyone. (SATISFACTION)
3. This country needs _____ in education. (INVEST)
4. In old China that _____ got his factory working round the clock, churning out cheap cloth for the market. (CAPITAL)
5. These tests are a _____ indicator of future performance. (RELIABILITY)
6. The authorities are protectors of public _____. (MORAL)
7. Its truly revolutionary character can be seen in its _____ potential. (INTERACTION)
8. The politician was appointed as the Minister of _____. (FINANCIAL)
9. Not everyone can understand Einstein's _____ of Relativity. (THEORETICAL)
10. The scientific research personnel who held the post without _____ must be transferred to another post. (QUALIFIED)

Grammar Exercises

Relative Clause

There are two types of relative clauses in English: those that add extra information (non-defining relative clauses) and those that identify nouns or pronouns (defining relative clauses).

Defining clauses

These clauses define the noun and they identify which thing or person we are referring to.

Things

The present which he bought me is beautiful.

People

The man who has started an English course is from Spain.

Using "whom"

Whom is used to refer to the object of the verb.

The people with whom I was sitting were very noisy.

Using “that”

In spoken English, “that” is often used instead of “which”, “whom” or “who”.

The present that he bought me is beautiful.

The man that has started an English course is from Spain.

“When”, “where” and “whose”

When: *Is there another time when I can call you?*

Where: *Can you tell me where I can buy wrapping paper?*

Whose: (possessive) *The woman whose umbrella you took is very angry about it.*

Omitting “that”, “who” and “which”

If the pronoun (“that”, “who”, “which”) is the object of the verb, it can be omitted.

The company that she works for is based in London. (“That” is an object pronoun.)

= *The company she works for is based in London.* (“That” can be omitted.)

But:

The company that employs her is based in London. (“That” is a subject pronoun.)

The company employs her. In this case, it is not possible to omit “that”. You need the pronoun because it is the subject of the verb.

Non-defining relative clauses

These clauses add further information.

My students, who are all adults, are learning English to get a better job.

The textbooks, which the students like, have lots of helpful examples.

Commas are used to separate the relative clause from the rest of the sentence.

“That” cannot be used instead of “who” or “which” in non-defining relative clauses.

My students, many of whom are from Europe, are learning English to get a better job.

The textbooks, some of which the students like, have helpful examples.

Comparing defining and non-defining relative clauses

The meaning of the sentences changes if you use a non-defining clause rather than a defining clause. Compare the following:

Non-defining

The students, who had revised hard, passed the exam. (All the students revised and they all passed the exam.)

Defining

The students who had revised hard passed the exam. (Only some of the students revised, and these were the ones who passed the exam.)

I. Judge which of the following sentences contains a relative clause and point out what relative clause it is.

1. I was invited by the professor whom I met at the conference.
2. Who will be our monitor hasn't been decided yet.