

## Relative Clauses (2) – Clauses With or Without *who/that/which*

### A

Look again at these example sentences from Unit 89:

- The woman **who** lives next door is a doctor. (*or* The woman **that** lives)  
     The woman lives next door. **who** (= the woman) is the *subject*
- Where is the cheese **that** was in the refrigerator? (*or* the cheese **which** was)  
     The cheese was in the refrigerator. **that** (= the cheese) is the *subject*

You must use *who/that/which* when it is the subject of the relative clause. You cannot say “The woman lives next door is a doctor” or “Where is the cheese was in the refrigerator?”

### B

Sometimes *who/that/which* is the *object* of the verb. For example:

- The woman **who** I wanted to see was away on vacation.  
     I wanted to see the woman. **who** (= the woman) is the *object*  
     I is the *subject*
- Have you found the keys **that** you lost?  
     You lost the keys. **that** (= the keys) is the *object*  
     you is the *subject*

When *who/that/which* is the object, you can leave it out. So you can say:

- The woman I wanted to see was away. *or* The woman **who** I wanted to see . . .
- Have you found the keys you lost? *or* . . . the keys **that** you lost?
- The dress Ann bought doesn't fit her very well. *or* The dress **that** Ann bought . . .
- Is there anything I can do? *or* . . . anything **that** I can do?

### C

Notice the position of prepositions (*in/at/with*, etc.) in relative clauses:

- do you know the woman? – Tom is talking **to** her  
 → Do you know the woman (**who/that**) Tom is talking **to** ?
- the bed – I slept **in** it last night – wasn't very comfortable  
 → The bed (**that/which**) I slept **in** last night wasn't very comfortable.

- Are these the keys (**that/which**) you were looking for?
- The woman (**who/that**) he fell in love with left him after a few weeks.
- The man (**who/that**) I was sitting next to on the plane talked all the time.

In all these examples, you can leave out *who/that/which*.

### D

You cannot use *what* in sentences like these:

- Everything (**that**) they said was true. (*not* Everything **what** they said)
- I gave her all the money (**that**) I had. (*not* all the money **what** I had)

**What** = the thing(s) that:

- Did you hear **what** they said? (= the things that they said)

# Exercises

**90.1** In some of these sentences you don't need *who* or *that*. If you don't need these words, put them in parentheses like this: (*who*) (*that*).

1. The woman **who** lives next door is a doctor. (*who* is necessary in this sentence)
2. Have you found the keys (**that**) you lost? (in this sentence you don't need *that*)
3. The people **who** we met at the party were very friendly.
4. The people **who** work in the office are very friendly.
5. The people **who** I talked to were very friendly.
6. What have you done with the money **that** I gave you?
7. What happened to the money **that** was on the table? Did you take it?
8. It was an awful movie. It was the worst movie **that** I've ever seen.
9. It was an awful experience. It was the worst thing **that** has ever happened to me.

**90.2** Complete these sentences with a relative clause. Use the sentences in the box to make your relative clauses.

Ann is wearing a dress <del>you lost some keys</del>	you're going to see a movie you had to do some work	we wanted to visit a museum I invited some people to the party
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1. Have you found the keys you lost \_\_\_\_\_?
2. I like the dress \_\_\_\_\_.
3. The museum \_\_\_\_\_ was closed when we got there.
4. What's the name of the movie \_\_\_\_\_?
5. Some of the people \_\_\_\_\_ couldn't come.
6. Have you finished the work \_\_\_\_\_?

**90.3** Complete these sentences using a relative clause with a preposition.

we went to a party last night I work with a number of people <del>you were looking for some keys</del>	you can rely on Brian I applied for a job I saw you with a man	we were invited to a wedding you told me about a hotel
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1. Are these the keys you were looking for \_\_\_\_\_?
2. Unfortunately, we couldn't go to the wedding \_\_\_\_\_.
3. I enjoy my job. I like the people \_\_\_\_\_.
4. What's the name of that hotel \_\_\_\_\_?
5. The party \_\_\_\_\_ wasn't very much fun.
6. I didn't get the job \_\_\_\_\_.
7. Brian is a good person to know. He's somebody \_\_\_\_\_.
8. Who was that man \_\_\_\_\_ in the restaurant?

**90.4** Put in *that* or *what*. If the sentence is complete with or without *that*, write (*that*) in parentheses.

1. I gave her all the money (*that*) \_\_\_\_\_ I had.
2. They give their children everything \_\_\_\_\_ they want.
3. Tell me \_\_\_\_\_ you want, and I'll try to get it for you.
4. Why do you blame me for everything \_\_\_\_\_ goes wrong?
5. I won't be able to do much, but I'll do the best \_\_\_\_\_ I can.
6. I can only lend you ten dollars. It's all \_\_\_\_\_ I've got.
7. I don't agree with \_\_\_\_\_ you've just said.
8. I don't trust him. I don't believe anything \_\_\_\_\_ he says.