

Relative clauses 2: clauses with and without **who/that/which**

A

Look at these example sentences from Unit 92:

- ☐ The woman **who** lives next door to me is a doctor. (or The woman **that** lives ...)
 The woman lives next door to me **who** (= the woman) is the *subject*
- ☐ Where are the keys **that** were on the table? (or ... the keys **which** were ...)
 The keys were on the table **that** (= the keys) is the *subject*

You must use **who/that/which** when it is the *subject* of the relative clause. You cannot leave out **who/that/which** in these examples.

B

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

- ☐ The woman **who** I wanted to see was away on holiday.
I wanted to see **the woman** **who** (= the woman) is the *object*
I is the *subject*
- ☐ Did you find **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 ...
- ☐ Did you find **the keys you lost**? or ... the keys **that** you lost?
- ☐ **The dress Lisa bought** doesn't fit her very well. or The dress **that** Lisa bought ...
- ☐ Is there **anything I can do**? or ... anything **that** I can do?

Note that we say:

the keys you lost (not the keys you lost them)
the dress Lisa bought (not the dress Lisa bought it)

C

Note the position of prepositions (**to/in/for** etc.) in relative clauses:

- Tom is **talking to** a woman. Do you know her? (2 sentences)
- Do you know the woman Tom is **talking to**? (or ... the woman **who/that** Tom is talking to)
- I **slept in** a bed. It wasn't comfortable. (2 sentences)
- The bed I **slept in** wasn't comfortable. (or The bed **that/which** I slept in ...)
- ☐ Are these **the books you were looking for**? or
Are these the books **that/which** you were ...
- ☐ **The man I was sitting next to on the plane** talked all the time. or
The man **who/that** I was sitting next to ...

Note that we say:

the books **you were looking for** (not the books you were looking for them)
the man **I was sitting next to** (not the man I was sitting next to him)

D

We say:

- ☐ **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:

- ☐ **What they said** was true. (= The things that they said)

Exercises

93.1 In some of these sentences you need **who** or **that**. Correct the sentences where necessary.

- The woman lives next door is a doctor. The woman who lives next door
- Did you find the keys you lost? OK
- The people we met last night were very friendly.
- The people work in the office are very friendly.
- I like the people I work with.
- What have you done with the money I gave you?
- What happened to the money was on the table?
- What's the worst film you've ever seen?
- What's the best thing it has ever happened to you?

93.2 What do you say in these situations? Complete each sentence with a relative clause.

- Your friend lost some keys. You want to know if he found them. You say:
Did you find the keys you lost
- A friend is wearing a dress. You like it. You tell her:
I like the dress
- A friend is going to the cinema. You want to know the name of the film. You say:
What's the name of the film
- You wanted to visit a museum, but it was shut. You tell a friend:
The museum was shut.
- You invited people to your party. Some of them couldn't come. You tell someone:
Some of the people couldn't come.
- Your friend had to do some work. You want to know if she has finished. You say:
Have you finished the work
- You rented a car. It broke down after a few miles. You tell a friend:
Unfortunately the car broke down after a few miles.

93.3 These sentences all have a relative clause with a preposition. Put the words in the correct order.

- Did you find (looking / for / you / the books / were)?
Did you find the books you were looking for
- We couldn't go to (we / invited / to / were / the wedding).
We couldn't go to
- What's the name of (the hotel / about / me / told / you)?
What's the name of
- Unfortunately I didn't get (applied / I / the job / for).
Unfortunately I didn't get
- Did you enjoy (you / the concert / to / went)?
Did you enjoy
- Gary is a good person to know. He's (on / rely / can / somebody / you).
Gary is a good person to know. He's
- Who were (the people / with / were / you) in the restaurant yesterday?
Who were in the restaurant yesterday?

93.4 Put in **that** or **what** where necessary. If the sentence is already complete, leave the space empty.

- I gave her all the money I had. (all the money **that** I had *is also correct*)
- Did you hear what they said?
- She gives her children everything they want.
- Tell me you want and I'll try to get it for you.
- Why do you blame me for everything goes wrong?
- I won't be able to do much, but I'll do I can.
- I won't be able to do much, but I'll do the best I can.
- I don't agree with you said.
- I don't trust him. I don't believe anything he says.