

Relative pronouns: WHO, WHICH, THAT (translating « QUI/ QUE »)

Subject	Object
who	who/whom
which	which
that	that

1. They are mostly used as **subjects**

- WHO refers to a person
- WHICH refers to a thing
- THAT refers to people or things

Ex: The developer who wrote this program is experienced (who replaces “the developer”, and “the developer” is the subject of the verb “wrote”).

Ex: He came up with an idea which changed the world (which replaces “an idea”, and “an idea” is the subject of the verb “changed”).

2. **WHOM, WHICH and THAT can be used as objects.** When they are direct objects (answer the question “what”), then the pronouns are generally implied and do not appear.

WHO is sometimes used instead of WHOM in informal English

Ex: The client I met yesterday works in retail. (you could say= the client whom I met)

Ex: The application you developed runs smoothly. (the application which you developed)

3. **WHO and WHICH are often replaced by THAT** in American English, and especially in informal English.

Ex: The developer that wrote this program is experienced/ an idea that changed the world

THAT (as a subject) is almost always used after everything, anything, nothing, something, only, all and superlatives. *Ex: everything that moves/ something that will surprise you/ the only thing that matters/ the most fantastic news*

4. When the information is in between commas, **WHICH or WHO** must be used, THAT cannot be used.

Ex: The woman who/that just came in works here. (“who just came in” is essential to the sentence).

Ex: The woman, who just came in, works here. (“who just came in” is only additional information).