

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 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 fridge? (or the cheese **which** was ...)
- The cheese was in the fridge. **that** (= the cheese) is the *subject*

You must use **who/that/which** when it is the *subject* of the relative clause. So you cannot say 'The woman lives next door is a doctor' or 'Where is the cheese was in the fridge?'.
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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*
- ☐ 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 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 (**in/to/for** etc.) in relative clauses:

Tom is **talking to** a woman – do you know her?

→ Do you know the woman (who/that) Tom is **talking to** ?

I **slept in** a bed last night – it wasn't very comfortable

→ The bed (that/which) I **slept in** last night wasn't very comfortable.

- ☐ Are these the books **you were looking for**? or ... the books **that/which** you were ...
- ☐ The woman **he fell in love with** left him after a month. or The woman **who/that** he ...
- ☐ 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)

D

You cannot use **what** in sentences like these (see also Unit 92D):

- ☐ 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)