

Which, who or what?

1 Tick the correct sentence in each pair.

- 1 a The living room has a big open fire, which makes it really warm and cosy.
b The living room has a big open fire, what makes it really warm and cosy.
- 2 a He has three brothers which are older than him.
b He has three brothers who are older than him.

Who and *which* are used to refer back to something from the first part of a sentence. *Who* refers to people and *which* to things, places or organisations:

Do you know **the guy who** lives next door?

I work for **an organisation which** helps homeless people find work.

What is used to refer to something unknown:

Do you know **what's** in the box?

A defining relative clause defines exactly who or what you are talking about. *Who* or *which* can be replaced by *that* or sometimes dropped altogether:

That's the man **who** I saw running away from the accident.

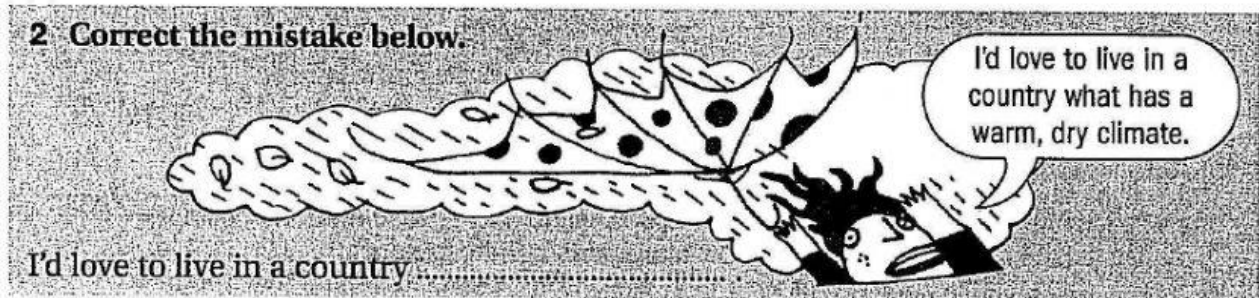
That's the man (**that**) I saw running away from the accident.

A non-defining relative clause, separated by commas, gives extra information:

Our apartment, **which** faces east, gets the sun in the morning.

Which can't be dropped or replaced by *that*, as it would then become a defining relative clause, e.g. *Our house that faces east gets the sun in the morning.* (we have several houses and this one faces east)

2 Correct the mistake below.



3 Make the following sentences sound more natural using *who*, *which* or *what*.

Example: They have a very heavy workload. ^{which} A heavy workload can lead to stress.

- 1 There are many students. These students can't afford to pay such high fees.
- 2 We're lucky to live in this country. This country has free basic healthcare.
- 3 The book has two main characters. These characters are very different.
- 4 He hasn't explained the thing he wants me to do.
- 5 I stayed with a lovely family. This family live in an old farmhouse.
- 6 People are living longer. This means that the state has to pay more in pensions.
- 7 Do you know the thing he plans to do when he finishes college?
- 8 My uncle gave me some helpful advice about loans. My uncle is a bank manager.