

In some relative clauses, the relative pronoun (*who, that, or which*) can be omitted.

In an object relative clause, a relative pronoun (*who, that, or which*) is optional. Relative pronouns are only required when they function as the subject of a relative clause.

My friend told our classmates a secret. I had told him that secret.

My friend told our classmates a secret (that) I had told him.

In a subject relative clause, a relative pronoun (*who, that, or which*) is necessary because it functions as the subject of the relative clause.

I have a roommate. She never cleans the kitchen.

I have a roommate **who** never cleans the kitchen.

1 Choose the sentences where the relative pronoun (*who, that, or which*) is optional.

- 1. The restaurant that we had dinner at last night overcharged us.
- 2. One thing that makes me sick is really selfish people.
- 3. People who chew gum loudly really get on my nerves.
- 4. Someone's cell phone kept ringing all through the movie that I saw last night.
- 5. I had a big argument with a store clerk who refused to give me a refund.
- 6. My teacher gets mad at every little noise that our class makes.
- 7. The town fined a neighbor who burned garbage in her backyard.
- 8. The people in the line which he tried to cut into complained to the theater manager.

2 Complete the sentences with *who* or *that*. If the pronoun can be omitted, write X. Sometimes more than one answer is possible.

- 1. One thing that gets me down is people who / that lie to me.
- 2. I like people _____ stand up for something _____ they believe in.
- 3. Something _____ makes me sad is people _____ have no place to live.
- 4. Something _____ I can't do is keep up with technology.
- 5. I was a kid _____ had parents _____ made a lot of rules.
- 6. The thing _____ aggravates me most is people _____ are cruel to animals.