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.

LIVEWORKSHEETS