

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?'.

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)

Exercises

93.1 In some of these sentences you need **who** or **that**. Correct the sentences where necessary.

- 1 The woman lives next door is a doctor.
- 2 Have you found the keys you lost?
- 3 The people we met last night were very nice.
- 4 The people work in the office are very nice.
- 5 The people I work with are very nice.
- 6 What have you done with the money I gave you?
- 7 What happened to the money was on the table?
- 8 What's the worst film you've ever seen?
- 9 What's the best thing it has ever happened to you?

The woman who lives next door
OK
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

93.2 What do you say in these situations? Complete each sentence with a relative clause.

- 1 Your friend lost some keys. You want to know if he has found them. You say:
Have you found the keys you lost ?
- 2 A friend is wearing a dress. You like it. You tell her:
I like the dress .
- 3 A friend is going to see a film. You want to know the name of the film. You say:
What's the name of the film ?
- 4 You wanted to visit a museum. It was shut when you got there. You tell a friend:
The museum was shut when we got there.
- 5 You invited some people to your party. Some of them couldn't come. You tell someone:
Some of the people couldn't come.
- 6 Your friend had to do some work. You want to know if she has finished. You say:
Have you finished the work ?
- 7 You rented a car. It broke down after a few miles. You tell a friend:
The car broke down after a few miles.

93.3 These sentences all have a relative clause with a preposition. Put the words in the correct order.

- 1 Did you find (looking / for / you / the books / were)?
Did you find the books you were looking for ?
- 2 We couldn't go to (we / invited / to / were / the wedding).
We couldn't go to .
- 3 What's the name of (the hotel / about / me / told / you)?
What's the name of ?
- 4 Unfortunately I didn't get (applied / I / the job / for).
Unfortunately I didn't get .
- 5 Did you enjoy (you / the concert / to / went)?
Did you enjoy ?
- 6 Gary is a good person to know. He's (on / rely / can / somebody / you).
Gary is a good person to know. He's .
- 7 Who was (the man / were / with / you) in the restaurant last night?
Who was in the restaurant last night?

93.4 Put in **that** or **what** where necessary. If the sentence is already complete, leave the space empty.

- 1 I gave her all the money — I had. (all the money **that** I had is also correct)
- 2 Did you hear **what** they said?
- 3 They give their children everything they want.
- 4 Tell me you want and I'll try to get it for you.
- 5 Why do you blame me for everything goes wrong?
- 6 I won't be able to do much, but I'll do I can.
- 7 I won't be able to do much, but I'll do the best I can.
- 8 I don't agree with you've just said.
- 9 I don't trust him. I don't believe anything he says.