Unit 93

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)

Relative clauses 1 → Unit 92 Relative clauses 3–5 → Units 94–96 Wh… → Unit 94B

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Exercises

Unit 93

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. The woman who lives next door
2 Have you found the keys you lost? OK
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?

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.

LIVEWORKSHEETS