

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.