

The boy who came to see me... Relative clauses 1 (of 7) ★★

Here are some basic relative clauses, stage 1

1 The news that surprised me... (*that* = "the news")

We use **that** for things (but see the diagram below, and next week's GB)



"Is this the jumper that shrank in the wash?"
(the jumper shrank)

We need an apartment that has three bedrooms.

2 The boy who came see me... (*who* = "the boy")

We use **who** for people (but see the diagram below, and next week's GB)



"Who is Belinda Smith?"
"She's the woman who's waiting outside"
(the woman is waiting)

The person who really interests me is Marcel Proust.

Diagram (The Switch)



You can use **that** with things and **who** with people (but you can also use **that** with people). See GB 135, next week.

Quick check

Complete these sentences with "that" or "who":

(Hint: this is stage 1; use **who** if you can)

- 1 The person _____ walked by just now was my elder brother.
- 2 The thing _____ stopped me was their refusal to help.
- 3 The dog _____ bit me was a big German Shepherd.
- 4 John Peters was the man _____ helped me most of all.
- 5 My sister is the one _____ always comes in good time.