

**The man (who/that) I saw... Relative clauses 3 (of 7) ★★**

Here are some relative clauses, stage 3 (but still DEFINING / RESTRICTIVE)  
(Don't forget: definitions of words in SMALL CAPITALS are at [grammarbites.co.uk/definitions](http://grammarbites.co.uk/definitions))

In GBs 134 & 135, the RELATIVE PRONOUN was the SUBJECT of the RELATIVE CLAUSE;  
now it is the OBJECT.

1 Just as before, we use **who/that** with people, but when the pronoun is the object, we often omit it.



**That's the man who/that stole my car!**

*who/that* is the subject of *stole*

(who/that)

**That's the man / I saw stealing my car!**

(*who/that*) is the object of *saw*

Illustrations: Holden-Hotopf

2 Just as before, we use **that** with things, but when the pronoun is the object, we often omit it (same as in 1 above).



This is the horse **that** broke the record.

*that* is the subject of *broke*

(that)

This is the horse / the man was riding.

(*that*) is the object of *was riding*

3 **The Switch** (this is a new one) See also [grammarbites.co.uk/articles](http://grammarbites.co.uk/articles).



You use **that / who** with things and people (see above) when the pronoun is the subject, and you use **nothing** when it is the object (but you can also use **that / who**).

**Who** and **that** (also **which, whom** and **whose**) are all RELATIVE PRONOUNS.

DEFINING and RESTRICTIVE mean the same.

**Quick check**

Complete these sentences with **that, (that), who/that** or **(who/that)**:

- 1 The people \_\_\_\_\_ I met were all French.
- 2 This is a coat \_\_\_\_\_ will really last well.
- 3 You want the kind of person \_\_\_\_\_ doesn't mind working late.
- 4 The car \_\_\_\_\_ I want is a Jaguar.
- 5 Jean is a girl \_\_\_\_\_ you can rely on.

