

Relative Clauses: Deleting Relative Pronouns

The **relative pronoun** can be left out if it serves as the object in the relative clause. The relative pronoun can also be left out when it occurs in a relative clause with *be*. In this case, the relative pronoun and the verb *be* are left out. Relative pronouns cannot be left out when they are subjects of a relative clause without *be*.

Examples:

*I saw the movie **that** you recommended.*
= *I saw the movie you recommended.*

*The car **that** I bought wasn't expensive.*
= *The car I bought wasn't expensive.*

*He trusts the man **who is** fixing his computer.* (leave out relative pronoun and *be*)
= *He trusts the man fixing his computer.*

*Anybody **who is** available on Saturday can come to my party.*
= *Anybody available on Saturday can come to my party.*

*The man **that** painted my house is very reliable.* (relative pronoun is subject of relative clause without *be*)
NOT: *The man painted my house is very reliable.*

Delete the RELATIVE PRONOUNS (and the verb BE) if possible in the following sentences.

1. I like friends **who** you can trust.
2. The teacher marked the tests **that** the students had written.
3. My sister went to the bakery **that** sells delicious pastries.
4. Where can I buy the chocolate **that** my girlfriend likes?
5. Andy saw the driver **who** hit his car.
6. The clerk is helping the woman **who** is at the counter.
7. Newfoundland is the province **which** joined Canada in 1949.
8. Students always do the homework **that** the teacher assigns.
9. She has seen every movie **that** Brad Pitt is in.
10. We want to eat in the new restaurant **that** is near our apartment.