

# Different uses of that

That is one of the commonest words in English. It is used in the following ways.

## As a demonstrative adjective

As a demonstrative adjective, that is used to point out people or things. It is followed by singular noun.

Who is that boy?

Give me that book.

What was that noise?

## As a demonstrative pronoun

That serves as a demonstrative pronoun, when used without a following noun.

Who gave you that?

Who said that?

## As a conjunction

That is a subordinating conjunction. It can be used to introduce noun clauses, adjective clauses or adverb clauses.

She told me *that she was not coming*. (Here that introduces the noun clause 'she was not coming'.)

The museum *that we visited yesterday* was very good. (Here that introduces the adjective (relative) clause 'we visited yesterday'.)

We eat *that we might live*. (Here that introduces the subordinating adverb clause of purpose 'we might live'.)

## Usage note

The relative pronoun that is often left out when it is the object of the verb in the relative clause. That is not left out in a more formal style.

Study the examples given below.

# Different uses of that

Did you receive the parcel? I sent it yesterday.

Did you receive the parcel that I sent yesterday? (Formal)

Did you receive the parcel I sent yesterday? (Informal)

Here the relative pronoun that is the object of the verb sent.

That is often left out of expressions like so that and such that.

I was so excited I couldn't sleep. (OR I was so excited that I couldn't sleep.)

That is also used in questions and negatives. In this case, it has a similar meaning to very.

It wasn't that bad. (= It was not very bad.)

There is no need to worry. Her condition isn't that serious.