

# The relative pronoun that

The relative pronoun *who* is only used to refer to people. *Which* is only used to refer to animals or objects. *That* can be used to refer to both people and objects. In some cases, *that* is preferred to *which*.

## Cases where only *that* is possible

*That* should be used after superlative adjectives and other determiners like *all*, *same*, *any*, *none*, *nothing*, *only*, *everything*, *little*, *much* and *no*.

He is the same guy that picked my pocket yesterday. (More natural than 'He is the same guy who picked my pocket yesterday.')

This is the best book that was ever written about World War II. (NOT This is the best book which was ever written about World War II.)

None that participated in the contest won the prize. (More natural than 'None who participated in the contest won the prize.')

After *all*, *everyone*, *everybody*, *no one*, *nobody* and *those*, both *that* and *who* can be used.

Everyone who / that participated in the competition performed well.

All the candidates who / that wrote the exam made it to the rank list.

*That* should be used after the interrogative pronouns *what*, *which* and *who*.

What is the problem that worries you the most? (NOT What is the problem which worries you the most?)

Which is the phone that you would like to buy?

Who is the writer that you like the most?

## Who and whom

*Whom* should be used after a preposition.

The girl to whom you spoke is my cousin. (NOT The girl to who you spoke is my cousin.)

The girl from whom you collected the books has called me.