

INCLUDING or OMITTING RELATIVE PRONOUNS

The most common relative pronouns in English are who, whom, whose, that and which. In certain situations the words what, when and where can also function as relative pronouns.

TIP: If there's a verb immediately after the relative pronoun, you know it's a subject, and you can't omit the relative pronoun. If there's no verb, you're good to go - you can create a contact clause!

THE RELATIVE PRONOUN CANNOT BE OMITTED WHEN IT IS THE SUBJECT OF THE SENTENCE.		
Noun, subject of the main clause	RELATIVE PRONOUN	VERB + REST OF RELATIVE CLAUSE
The woman	that	spoke at the meeting was very knowledgeable.
What's the name of the girl	who/that	won the tennis tournament?
I drive a car	that	was made in Germany.
English is a language	which	has a very complicated grammar.
There's the dog	that	bit my brother.
She's the woman	who/that	cuts my hair.

THE RELATIVE PRONOUN CAN BE OMITTED WHEN IT IS THE OBJECT OF THE SENTENCE.		
Noun, subject of the main clause	RELATIVE PRONOUN	PRONOUN + VERB + REST OF RELATIVE CLAUSE
It was the best film	(that)	I've ever seen.
The professor,	(whom)	I respect, recently received an award.
I still remember the day	(when)	I received my first paycheck.
The water	(which/that)	I drank was very cold
The film	(that)	we saw last week was awful
The book	(which/ that)	I read was very interesting.

THE RELATIVE PRONOUN CAN BE OMITTED If the relative clause contains the verb 'be' + any of the following :		
Noun, subject of the main clause	RELATIVE PRONOUN	Pronoun + verb + rest of relative clause
be + a past participle [a passive form]		
A person	(who has been)	tricked once is careful the next time.
The student	(that is)	chosen as winner will get a prize.
be + a present participle [a continuous form]		
The woman	(who is)	talking to my wife is from Ireland.
The family	(who are)	living in the house are very rich.
be + an adjective phrase		
The man	(who is)	interested in your car will telephone later.
be + a prepositional phrase		
The books	(which are)	on the table have been read.