Unit 88 **Relative clauses (1) - clauses with who/that/which**

a Study this example:

The man │who lives next door│ is very friendly.
└─ *relative clause* ─┘

A *clause* is a part of a sentence. A *relative clause* tells us which person or thing (or what kind of person or thing) the speaker means:

- **The man who** lives next door... (who lives next door tells us which man)
- **People who** live in London... (who live in London tells us what kind of people)

We use who in a relative clause when we are talking about *people*. We use who instead of he/she/they:

→ **The man** │who│ lives next door is very friendly.

we know a lot of people ─│they│ live in London

→ **We know a lot of people** │who│ live in London.

- **An architect is someone** who designs buildings.
- **What was the name of the man** who lent you the money?
- **The girl** who was injured in the accident is now in hospital.
- **Anyone** who wants to do the examination must enter before next Friday.

It is also possible to use that instead of who:

- **The man** that lives next door is very friendly.

But sometimes you must use who for people - see **Unit 91**.

b When we are talking about *things*, we use that (not who) in a relative

- **I don't like stories** that have unhappy endings.
- **Gerry works for a company** that makes typewriters.
- **Everything** that happened was my fault.
- **The window** that was broken has now been repaired.

You can also use which for things (but not for people):

- **Where are the eggs** which were in the fridge?

That is more usual than which in the sentences in this unit. But sometimes you must use which - see **Unit 91**.

c Remember that we use who/that/which instead of he/she/they/it:

- **Do you know the man** who lives next door? (*not* '... who *he* lives...')

Now study the next unit for more information about relative clauses.