

GRAMMAR TIP #5: OMITTING RELATIVE PRONOUNS IN ADJECTIVE CLAUSES



The relative pronoun can be omitted when it functions as a direct object in an adjective clause.

Examples:

The books that you read focus on my research.

“You” is subject of the conjugated verb in the adjective clause.

“That” refers to “the books” and is the object of the adjective clause.

- “That” can be omitted since it acts as the object of the adjective clause.

“Who” refers to the professor and is the subject of the conjugated verb in the adjective clause.

The professor who put me in touch with the department wants to talk.

- “Who” cannot be omitted since it acts as the subject in the adjective clause.

Note: If the adjective clause is non-essential (See Grammar Tip 3), you cannot omit the relative pronoun.

See Grammar Tip # 4 to review
adjective clauses

**GOT
QUESTIONS?**

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