

# How to Use “Who” and “That” Correctly

One of the most common errors in the English language is the misrepresentation of the usage of the words "who" and "that" correctly. These two words are used to identify which person or thing we are talking about. I'll explain and give some concrete examples for you to be able to identify how to use these two words correctly.

## The relative pronouns who and that go after the noun and at the beginning of the relative clause.

### Who refers to people

Example: Jane is the daughter who moved to London.

### That refers to things

Example: The film that won the Oscar was very good.

**Dialogue:** Helen/ I saw Jane the other day. Mary/ Jane? The daughter who lives in New York?  
Helen/ No, that's Norma. Jane is daughter who moved to London, the one who married the doctor.  
She's working in Harrods now, the shop that sells very expensive things in Knightsbridge.

## The relative clauses in this dialogue identify which person or thing we are talking about

The clause "The daughter who lives in New York?" tells us which girl Mary means. The clause "that sells very expensive things in Knightsbridge." tells us which shop Helen means.

## Tips

- Remember "Who" refers to people and "That" refers to things.

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