

b was (*that, what*) only occurs in the neuter and is used

- usually after neuter indefinites such as **alles** (*everything*), **einiges** (*some*), **etwas** (*something*), **manches** (*some*), **nichts** (*nothing*), **vieles** (*a lot*), **weniges** (*little*):

Der Roboter macht **alles**, *The robot does everything*
was man ihm sagt. *(that) you tell it to do.*

- after neuter adjectival nouns and **das**:

Das Schönste, was ich je *The most beautiful thing (that)*
 gesehen habe! *I've ever seen!*

Schreib genau **das, was** *Write exactly what she said!*
 sie gesagt hat!

- to refer back not to a specific noun, but to a whole clause or narrative previously mentioned:

Sie ignorierte ihn, **was** *She ignored him, which made*
 ihn wütend machte. *him furious.*

- to replace **das** in colloquial German:

Das Telefon, **was** (**das**) er *The telephone he bought*
 sich gekauft hat, *isn't working.*
 funktioniert nicht.

- in the contracted form **wo-** + preposition (e.g. **womit**); see 15.6.3.

14.6 Interrogative pronouns

Interrogative pronouns introduce direct or indirect questions:

Wer ist das? *Who's that?*

Sie hat nicht gesagt, **was** *She didn't say what she*
 sie wollte. *wanted.*

- **14.6.1** The most common interrogatives are **wer** (*who*), referring to persons, and **was** (*what*), referring to things.

Their forms are as follows:

<i>nom.</i>	wer	who	was	what
<i>acc.</i>	wen	who(m)	was	what
<i>dat.</i>	wem	who(m)	–	–
<i>gen.</i>	wessen	whose	wessen	whose

Was has no dative form and the genitive is usually avoided because it sounds archaic. For the contraction **wo-** + preposition used as an interrogative pronoun, see 15.6.3.

Although **wer** and **was** are singular in form, they can replace both singular and plural nouns:

Was suchst du? *What are you looking for?*

Wer sind diese Leute? *Who are these people?*

- **14.6.2 Welcher** (*which*) may be used as a pronoun or an adjective. It is declined like **dieser** (14.4.1):

Welche Bahn nimmst du? *Which train do you take?*

Ich habe zwei Schläger. *I have two racquets.*

Welchen möchten Sie? *Which one would you like?*

- **14.6.3 Was für ein** (*what kind of*) can refer to things or people and may be used as a pronoun or an adjective:

Sie haben sich ein Auto *They've bought a car.*

gekauft. **Was für ein(e)s?** *What kind?*

Was für ein Mensch ist das *What kind of man must he*
 nur? *be?*

Used with a noun, **ein** is declined like the indefinite article: **was für ein Mann/eine Frau/ein Kind** (5.1.3). As a pronoun **einer** is declined like **dieser**: **was für einer/eine/ein(e)s** (14.4.1).

The case of **ein** and **einer** is determined by their function (e.g. subject or object) in the sentence and not by the preposition **für**: