

French Relative Pronouns

Written by Administrator

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Just like in English, the **French relative pronouns** are words like “who,” “which,” or “that” which are used to introduce a *relative clause*.

Simply speaking, they help to join parts into a single sentence by replacing a subject, a direct object, or an object of a preposition. Let's take a look at the following examples:

I bought a house. This house has three rooms.

I bought a house **which** has three rooms.

This is a bike. The bike was stolen.

This is a bike **that** was stolen.

They sell a dress. I dream about the dress they sell.

They sell a dress **about which** I dream.

This is a city. I live in this city.

This is a city **where** I live. **Using relative pronouns**

In order to pick the proper French pronoun, you will need to know a few details about its grammatical role. In brief, the choice of a French relative pronoun depends on:

1. Whether it replaces a subject, a direct object, or an object of a preposition.
2. What is the gender and number of the person or thing that the pronoun refers to (*antecedent*).
3. Whether the *antecedent* represents a human.

List of French relative pronouns

The following table summarizes the French relative pronouns, their English translations and role. More detailed explanation of each pronoun is given in further lessons. Note that unlike their English counterparts, the French relative pronouns are never omitted in a sentence.

Audio	French pronoun	English translations	Role (What it replaces)
{audio}media/mp3/pron_qui.mp3{/audio}	qui	who, what, which, that, who	subject or indirect object
{audio}media/mp3/pron_que.mp3{/audio}	que	whom, what, which, that	direct object
{audio}media/mp3/pron_lequel.mp3{/audio}	lequel	what, which, that	object of a the preposition

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{audio}media/mp3/pron_oump3{/audio}

of which, from which, whose, subject of a the preposition

{audio}media/mp3/pron_oump3{/audio}

when, where, which, that nouns referring to time or