

# RELATIVE PRONOUNS

A relative pronoun begins a new clause that gives more information about a noun in the main sentence. This kind of clause is called a relative clause, and a noun referred to by a relative clause is called an antecedent. In English, "who", "whom", and "whose" are the relative pronouns for masculine or feminine nouns; "which" is used in place of "who" or "whom" for neuter nouns.

Relative pronouns have cases in English. "Who" is the nominative or subject case, "whom" is the accusative or object case, and "whose" is the genitive or possessive case. "Which" is both the subject and object case for neuter nouns. The case of a relative pronoun is determined by pronoun's usage within the relative clause, not the antecedent's usage in the main sentence. For example, in the sentence "The woman whom he saw had blonde hair", the relative pronoun is in the accusative or object case ("whom") because it is acting as the direct object of the verb "had" within the relative clause.

Consider the following examples:

The man **who** is coming up the road is my friend.

The woman **whom** he saw had blonde hair.

I saw a dog **whose** collar was blue.

I had a stick **which** I had found in the forest.

In Latin, relative pronouns (*qui, quae, quod*) work like relative pronouns do in English, only there are different forms for gender, number, and case. These forms generally follow the (-*iusi*) adjective pattern but in a few places follow 3rd-declension endings.

Consider the following chart:

***qui, quae, quod:***

	Masculine		Feminine		Neuter	
	sg.	pl.	sg.	pl.	sg.	pl.
Nominative	qu-i	qu-i	qu-ae	qu-ae	qu-od	qu-ae
Accusative	qu-em	qu-os	qu-am	qu-as	qu-od	qu-ae
Genitive	cu-ius	qu-orum	cu-ius	qu-arum	cu-ius	qu-orum
Dative	cu-i	qu-ibus	cu-i	qu-ibus	cu-i	qu-ibus
Ablative	qu-o	qu-ibus	qu-ā	qu-ibus	qu-o	qu-ibus

A relative pronoun receives the gender and number of its antecedent, but its case is determined by its function within the relative clause (just like in English).

Consider the following examples.

*Femina virum videt **qui** cibum comedit.* ("A woman sees a man who is eating some food.")

*Vir feminam videt **quae** in horto est.* ("A man sees a woman who is in a garden.")

*Femina **quam** vir videt in terrā sedet.* ("The woman whom the man sees is sitting on the ground.")

*Feminae **quas** vir videt in terrā sedent.* ("The women whom the man sees are sitting on the ground.")

*Vir feminam videt **cuius** pater fortis est.* ("The man sees a woman whose father is brave.")

*Ecce femina **cui** vir aquam fert.* ("There is the woman to whom the man brings water.")

*Ecce feminae **quibus** vir aquam fert.* ("There are the woman to whom the man brings water.")