

## Chapter 26

*Relative Pronoun / Indefinite Relative Pronoun /  
Relative Adjectives / Conjunctions*

**RELATIVE PRONOUN:** In Greek, as in English, a noun (or pronoun) may be modified by a *relative clause*. In the English sentence “Where is the slave whom you sent?” the relative clause is “whom you sent.” The first word of the clause, “whom,” is a *relative pronoun*. The purpose of the relative clause is to give information about the slave. Note that, as a clause, “whom you sent” has its own subject (“you”) and verb (“sent”). The word “whom” functions as the direct object of the clause. A relative clause is a subordinate (dependent) clause; it cannot stand alone as a separate sentence.

In the sentence above, the word “slave” is called the *antecedent* of the relative pronoun. The antecedent is the word in the main clause which the relative pronoun modifies and by means of which the relative clause is connected to the rest of the sentence.

### NOTES:

(1) It is very important to be certain of the grammatical function of the relative pronoun, since it generally appears *at the beginning* of the relative clause. It will generally be either the first word in the clause or, if it is the object of a preposition, the second.

(2) Since relative pronouns and interrogative pronouns sound the same *in English*, students need to be sure they understand the difference between the two.

(3) Relative pronouns are gradually disappearing from English, causing many people to forget about their existence. However, they are very much present in Greek and have to be dealt with!

(4) Appropriate translations for the relative pronoun are as follows:

masculine and feminine [when referring to persons(s)]

subject: “who”

object: “whom”

possessive: “whose”

neuter – “which” or “that” [unless referring to person(s)]

**FORMS OF THE RELATIVE PRONOUN:**

* * * * *									
*	<i>Singular</i>			<i>Plural</i>			*		
*							*		
*	M.	F.	N.	M.	F.	N.	*		
*							*		
*	N.	ὅς	ἥ	ὅ	οἷ	αἷ	ἃ	*	
*	G.	οὗ	ἧς	οὗ	ῶν	ῶν	ῶν	*	
*	D.	ὃν	ἣν	ὃν	οἷς	αἷς	οἷς	*	
*	A.	ὃν	ἣν	ὅ	οὔς	ἄς	ἄ	*	
*							*		
* * * * *									

**Warning!** Many of the relative pronouns appear in the *Accents and Breathing Marks That Matter* list.

The rule for the use of the relative pronoun in Greek reflects its connection to both the antecedent and its own clause. *The relative pronoun will be the same gender and number as the antecedent, but its case will be determined by its use in the relative clause.* The English example given above would be written in Greek as:

ποῦ ἐστὶν ὁ δοῦλος ὃν ἐπεμψας;

Since δοῦλος is *masculine singular*, the masculine singular relative pronoun is used. Since “whom” is the *direct object* of the relative clause, the *accusative* case is used.

**INDEFINITE RELATIVE PRONOUN:** The *indefinite relative pronoun* is formed by combining the relative pronoun with the indefinite pronoun. *Both parts* are fully declined and the relative part has the accent it would have if it were alone. This makes a rather unusual looking word. The neuter nominative / accusative singular form is written as two words to avoid confusion with ὅτι.

* * * * *				
* <i>Singular</i> *				
* * * * *				
* M. F. N. *				
* * * * *				
* N.	ὅστις	ἥτις	ὅτι	*
* G.	οὗτινος	ἧστινος	οὗτινος	*
* D.	ὧτινι	ἧτινι	ὧτινι	*
* A.	ὄντινα	ἧντινα	ὅτι	*
* * * * *				
* <i>Plural</i> *				
* * * * *				
* N.	οἵτινες	αἵτινες	ἅτινα	*
* G.	ὧντινων	ἧντινων	ὧντινων	*
* D.	οἷστισι(ν)	αἷστισι(ν)	οἷστισι(ν)	*
* A.	οὕστινας	ἄστινας	ἅτινα	*
* * * * *				

In actual usage, this form appears most frequently in the *nominative case*. It may be used with or without an antecedent. Without an antecedent, the use is a generalizing one: “whoever,” “whichever,” “everyone who,” “everything which,” “all who.” With an antecedent, it is sometimes used to emphasize the nature or a quality or characteristic of the antecedent. At other times it functions exactly the same way as the basic relative pronoun. (The latter two uses are not always easy to distinguish from one another.)

ὅστις γὰρ ἔχει, δοθήσεται αὐτῷ καὶ περισσευθήσεται· ὅστις  
δὲ οὐκ ἔχει, καὶ ὃ\* ἔχει ἀρθήσεται ἀπ’ αὐτοῦ.

For whoever has, to him shall it be given and increased; but whoever does not have, even that which he has shall be taken away from him.  
(Matthew 13:12) [\*The use of the basic relative pronoun in this sentence will be discussed later in this chapter.]

**RELATIVE ADJECTIVES:** There are also two *relative adjectives*:

ὅσος, -η, -ον: “as much as,” “as many as”; with or without the Greek adjective πάντες / πάντα (Chapter 27): “all...who,” “all...which/that”; *used as a substantive*: “all those who,” “all the things which,” “everything which” (Compare πόσος and τσοῦτος.)

καὶ ὅσοι ἦσαν ἐκ γένους ἀρχιερατικοῦ

and all those who / as many as were of high priestly descent (Acts 4:6)

οἶος, -α, -ον: “such as,” “as,” “of what sort” (Compare ποῖος and τοιοῦτος.)  
[There are no examples of this word in the exercises.]

**RELATIVE PARTICLES AND CONJUNCTIONS:** Certain particles and conjunctions correspond to the interrogative or demonstrative particles and adverbs:

(1) ὡς – as, like; while (with present or imperfect), when (with aorist) (Compare πῶς and οὕτως.)

Τότε οἱ δίκαιοι ἐκλάμψουσιν ὡς ὁ ἥλιος ἐν τῇ βασιλείᾳ τοῦ πατρὸς αὐτῶν.

Then the righteous will shine as / like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. (Matthew 13:43a)

Οὐχὶ ἡ καρδία ἡμῶν καιομένη ἦν ἐν ἡμῖν ὡς ἐλάλει ἡμῖν ἐν τῇ ὁδῷ, ὡς διήνοιγεν ἡμῖν τὰς γραφάς;

Were not our hearts burning within us, while he was speaking to us on the road, while he was explaining to us the Scriptures? (Luke 24:32)

ὡς ἤκουσεν τὸν ἀσπασμὸν τῆς Μαρίας ἢ Ἐλισάβετ

when Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting (Luke 1:41)

(2) καθὼς, ὥσπερ – as, just as (often paired in the sentence with οὕτως)

ὥσπερ γὰρ ὁ πατὴρ ἐγείρει τοὺς νεκροὺς καὶ ζωοποιεῖ, οὕτως καὶ ὁ υἱὸς οὓς\* θέλει ζωοποιεῖ.

For just as the Father raises the dead and makes them alive, thus / so also the Son makes alive those whom he wishes. (John 5:21) [\*See the note on the preceding page.]

(3) ὅτε – when (Compare πότε and τότε.)

ἔρχεται νύξ ὅτε οὐδείς δύναται ἐργάζεσθαι.

A night is coming when no one can work. (John 9:4b)

(4) οὗ (also ὅπου) – where (Compare ποῦ.) Be careful; οὗ is also the genitive singular masculine and neuter of the basic relative pronoun! See the *Accents and Breathing Marks That Matter* list.

οὗ γάρ εἰσιν δύο ἢ τρεῖς συνηγμένοι εἰς τὸ ἐμὸν ὄνομα, ἐκεῖ εἶμι ἐν μέσῳ αὐτῶν.

For where two or three have gathered / are gathered together in my name, I am there in their midst / in the midst of them. (Matthew 18:20)

ὅπου γάρ ἐστιν ὁ θησαυρός σου, ἐκεῖ ἔσται καὶ ἡ καρδία σου.

For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. (Matthew 6:21)

(5) ὅθεν – from where, from which, whence (Compare πόθεν.)

τότε λέγει, *Εἰς τὸν οἶκόν μου ἐπιστρέψω ὅθεν ἐξῆλθον.*

Then it [an unclean spirit] says, “I will return to my house from which I went out.” (Matthew 12:44a)

**TWO SPECIAL SITUATIONS INVOLVING RELATIVE PRONOUNS:** Two additional comments need to be made at this time concerning the use of the basic relative pronoun:

(1) Sometimes the antecedent, generally a pronoun, may be omitted and must be understood from the relative pronoun. This is especially common with the subject and direct object. See the previous sentences marked with an asterisk and the examples below. (*Hint:* If the sentence starts with a relative pronoun, assume you will have to supply the antecedent. There cannot be one in the sentence, since no words precede the relative pronoun.) In the case of both the neuter singular and neuter plural, it has become common to condense “that which” and “the things which” to just “what.” While this is not totally incorrect, it is also not the very best choice, since it blurs the distinction between the use of the relative pronoun and that of the interrogative pronoun.

ὃν γὰρ ἀπέστειλεν ὁ θεὸς τὰ ῥήματα τοῦ θεοῦ λαλεῖ.

For he whom / the one whom God sent speaks the words of God. (John 3:34)

ὕμεις προσκυνεῖτε ὃ οὐκ οἴδατε· ἡμεῖς προσκυνοῦμεν ὃ οἴδαμεν.

You worship that which / what you do not know; we worship that which / what we know. (John 4:22)

**Note:** From now on emphatic pronoun subjects in examples and answer keys will be italicized rather than underlined in order to avoid confusion with the new material which is being underlined.

Πορευθέντες ἀπαγγείλατε Ἰωάννη ὃ ἀκούετε καὶ βλέπετε.

Go and tell John the things which you hear and see. (Matthew 11:4)

(2) When the relative pronoun would naturally be in the accusative case as the direct object of its clause, it is often *assimilated* (or *attracted*) to the case of a genitive or dative antecedent.

μνημονεύετε τοῦ λόγου ὃ ἐγὼ εἶπον ὑμῖν.

Remember the word which I spoke to you. (John 15:20a)

We would expect the relative pronoun to be in the accusative case (ὃν) as the direct object of “said”; but instead it is genitive, having been assimilated to the case of the antecedent τοῦ λόγου.

καὶ νῦν δόξασόν με σύ, πάτερ, παρὰ σεαυτῷ τῇ δόξῃ ἣ εἶχον  
πρὸ τοῦ τὸν κόσμον εἶναι παρὰ σοί.

And now, Father, *you* glorify me together with yourself, with the glory which I had in your presence before the world existed. (John 17:5)

**VOCABULARY:** All the vocabulary words are included in the chapter. There is no additional new vocabulary.

**PREPARING FOR THE QUIZ:**

(1) Learn the *forms of the basic relative pronoun*. Note that these are the basic first and second declension noun / adjective endings, with the usual exception for pronouns that the neuter nominative / accusative singular reflects the article ending rather than that of the noun.

(2) Be sure you know how to *recognize and translate* a relative clause in relation to the sentence in which it appears.

(3) Know the meaning of the term “*antecedent*” and how to identify the antecedent of a relative pronoun.

(4) You should know how to *recognize and translate* the indefinite relative pronoun. Remember that this may appear with or without an antecedent. You are only responsible at this time for the *nominative case forms*.

(5) Know how to translate the relative adjective ὅσος. Note especially the *substantive uses* “all those who” and “all the things which.”

(6) Learn the various relative particles and conjunctions and be sure you can recognize and translate each in context. Note especially the *two distinct categories of meaning* for ὡς.

(7) Know how to recognize situations where the *relative pronoun has been omitted* and you must supply it from the context. Note the various possibilities for the word which you will have to supply.

(8) Know what it means to say that the relative pronoun has been *assimilated* or *attracted* to the case of its antecedent. Think about how you will recognize such situations. Be able to use these terms correctly in describing such situations.