

QUI / QUE / DONT / OÙ

WHO / THAT / WHERE

INTRODUCTION

In this lesson, we are going to learn
how to connect two different sentences together
like when we use « **That / Who / Where** » in English.

First, we should keep in mind that
there are no exact one-to-one translations for these words in French.
Instead, we are going to choose from the following set of pronouns :

« **Qui / Que / Dont / Où** »

The second thing we should be aware of is that,
while **in English**, the RELATIVE PRONOUNS can be **optional**,

Ex : « The cats **that** I have are grey. »

Ex : « The cats ____ I have are grey. »

In French, the RELATIVE PRONOUNS are **mandatory** :

Ex : “Les chats **que** j’ai sont gris.”

Ex : —“Les chats ____ j’ai sont gris.”

Now, let’s see how to choose the right RELATIVE PRONOUN.

SITUATION #1

When the RELATIVE PRONOUN is followed directly by a **VERB**,
we must use « **QUI** » :

1 st PHRASE	RELATIVE PRONOUN	VERB	2 nd PHRASE
Le chat	qui	est	devant la maison est gris.
The cat	(who)	is	in front of the house is grey.

SITUATION #2

When the RELATIVE PRONOUN is followed directly by a **SUBJECT** and a **VERB**,
we must use « **QUE** » :

1 st PHRASE	RELATIVE PRONOUN	SUBJECT	VERB	2 nd PHRASE
Le chat	que	j'	aime	est gris.
The cat	(that)	I	like	is grey.

When followed by a VOWEL (A, E, I, O, U, Y),
the pronoun « **QUE** » turns into « **QU'** »

Le film ~~que~~ elle a regardé ...

(The movie that she watched...)

Le film **qu'**elle a regardé ...

(The movie that she watched...)

SITUATION #3

When the RELATIVE PRONOUN is followed by a **SUBJECT** and a **VERB** that belongs to the list of verbs that you can combine with the preposition « **de** » as we learned before,
(Ex : « Parler **de** / Discuter **de** / Avoir besoin **de** / Avoir envie **de** »)

then we must use the « **DONT** » :

1 st PHRASE	RELATIVE PRONOUN	SUBJECT	VERB	2 nd PHRASE
Le chat	dont	je	parle	est gris.
The cat	(that)	I	like	is grey.

SITUATION #4

When the RELATIVE PRONOUN refers to **doing an action in a specific PLACE** we must use the RELATIVE PRONOUN « **OÙ** ».
Most of the time, it is translated as « WHERE » in English.

1 st PHRASE	RELATIVE PRONOUN	SUBJECT	VERB	2 nd PHRASE
Le pays	où	je	voyage	est beau.
The country	where	I	travel	is beautiful.