Les Pronoms Rélatifs

https://lovelearninglanguages.com/2020/01/23/level-b2-french-relative-pronoun-dont/

As a [**question word**](https://lovelearninglanguages.com/2020/10/28/french-question-words/), QUI means WHO. As a relative pronoun it can mean WHO or WHAT. QUI replaces the subject in the dependent clause.

* 1. “QUI”replaces the subject of the dependent clause.
	2. Qui is always followed by a conjugated verb.

EG :

Mon frère a 20 ans. Il est à l’université.

Mon frère qui a 20 ans est à l’université.

Je téléphone à ma mère. Elle est en Louisiane.

Je téléphone à ma mère qui est en Louisiane.

QUE replaces the [**direct object**](https://lovelearninglanguages.com/2020/09/23/french-direct-and-indirect-object-pronouns/) in a dependent clause. A direct object answers the questions WHO or WHAT? after the verb.

#### Many times the relative pronoun QUE will be followed by a subject or subject pronoun.

 Je **[fais rôtir](https://lovelearninglanguages.com/2020/03/04/french-faire-causative-construction/)** le poulet. – I am roasting the chicken.

 Mon mari l’a acheté. – My husband bought it.

 Je fais rôtir le poulet que mon mari a acheté. – I am roasting the chicken (that) my husband bought.

#### Since QUE replaces a direct object, remember to [make agreement with the past participle](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sBeZgg3R5_U&t=142s) in gender and number.

 Je prépare les légumes. – I’m preparing the vegetables.

 Mon mari **les** a acheté**s**. – My husband bought them.

 Je prépare **les légumes** que mon mari a acheté**s**. – I’m preparing the vegetables that my husband bought.

### OÙ

As a relative pronoun où indicates place as the English translation would suggest. However, it can also indicate a place in time.

#### OÙ often means WHERE when used as a relative pronoun:

 La fromagerie est en ville - The cheese shop is in town.

  j’ai acheté le camembert. – I bought the camembert.

 La fromagerie où j’ai acheté le camembert est en ville.

 **OÙ as a relative pronoun can also refer to TIME:**

When où refers to time, it is translated as WHEN in English. When referring to time, we tend to use the word QUAND because it means WHEN. The problem is that QUAND is not a relative pronoun so you can’t use it as if it were.

 C’était le moment où… That was the time when…

 Il pleuvait le jour où nous sommes arrivés. – It was raining the day when we arrived.

DONT replaces people or objects that come after DE.

#### Here is an example of a person preceded by DE:

 Tu vois cette dame? – Do you see that lady?

 Je t’ai parlé de cette dame. – I spoke to you about that lady.

 C’est la dame dont je t’ai parlé. – That’s the lady I talked to you about. – That’s the lady of whom I spoke.

J’ai besoin d’un couteau. – I need a knife.

Le couteau est sur la table. – The knife is on the table.

Le couteau dont j’ai besoin est sur la table. – The knife that I need is on the table.

* C’est un joli jardin.  Je m’occupe de ce joli jardin.
* C’est le joli jardin dont je m’occupe.

S’occuper de – to take care of

# Dont – Relative Pronoun

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## Pronom relatif

The [relative pronoun](https://www.lawlessfrench.com/grammar/relative-pronouns/) *dont* replaces the [preposition *de*](https://www.lawlessfrench.com/grammar/de-preposition/) plus a person or thing and serves as the [object](https://www.lawlessfrench.com/grammar/indirect-objects/) of a relative [clause](https://www.lawlessfrench.com/grammar/clauses/). If you’re unfamiliar with any of these concepts, please study the lessons before reading this one.

Depending on the context, *dont* has a number of possible translations:

* from which
* from whom
* including
* of which
* of whom
* that
* whose
* with

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 Though the relative pronoun is required in French, it’s often optional in English and may be left out of the translation entirely.

**Par exemple…**

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| *Voici la famille. Je parle de cette famille.* |   | Here’s the family. I’m talking about this family. |
| *https://www.lawlessfrench.com/wp-content/uploads/arrow-right.png Voici la famille dont je parle.* |   | Here’s the family I’m talking about. |
| *J’ai peur d’une seule chose : le noir.* |   | I’m afraid of only one thing: the dark. |
| *https://www.lawlessfrench.com/wp-content/uploads/arrow-right.png Le noir est la seule chose dont j’ai peur.* |   | The dark is the only thing (that) I’m afraid ofThe dark is the only thing of which I’m afraid. |
| *Je me méfie de lui.* |   | I’m suspicious of him. |
| *https://www.lawlessfrench.com/wp-content/uploads/arrow-right.png Tu connais l’homme dont je me méfie ?* |   | Do you know the man (whom) I’m suspicious of?Do you know the man of whom I’m suspicious? |

Since [possession](https://www.lawlessfrench.com/grammar/possessive-de/) is indicated with *de*, *dont* can express it as well. When the thing possessed is a person, *dont* is equivalent to "whose"; when it’s inanimate, the best translation is often "with."

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| *Je connais un homme. La femme de cet homme est espionne.* |   | I know a man. This man’s wife is a spy. |
| *https://www.lawlessfrench.com/wp-content/uploads/arrow-right.png Je connais un homme dont la femme est espionne.* |   | I know a man whose wife is a spy. |
| *Je cherche une maison. La porte de la maison est jaune.* |   | I’m looking for a house. The house’s door is yellow. |
| *https://www.lawlessfrench.com/wp-content/uploads/arrow-right.png Je cherche la maison dont la porte est jaune.* |   | I’m looking for the house with a yellow door. |

*Dont* can also refer to members of a group:

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| *J’ai beaucoup d’amis. Deux de mes amis sont poètes.* |   | I have a lot of friends. Two of my friends are poets. |
| *https://www.lawlessfrench.com/wp-content/uploads/arrow-right.png J’ai beaucoup d’amis, dont les deux sont poètes.* |   | I have a lot of friends, two of whom are poets. |
| *Certains films sont très marrants.*Dîner de cons*est un de ces films.* |   | Some movies are very funny. *Dîner de cons* is one of those movies. |
| *https://www.lawlessfrench.com/wp-content/uploads/arrow-right.png Certains films sont très marrants, dont*Dîner de cons*.* |   | Some movies are very funny, including *Dîner de cons*. |