

1. ce qui
2. ce que

Ce qui and **ce que** are relative pronouns like **qui** and **que**; that is, they introduce a subordinate clause. However, **ce qui** and **ce que** are used in sentences in which there is no expressed antecedent. They do not refer to a specific noun, but rather to an idea or an entire statement, which may or may not have been previously expressed: they refer to something unstated and unspecified.

The choice between **ce qui** and **ce que** depends solely on the grammatical role, **subject or direct object**, that the relative pronoun plays in the subordinate clause.

ce qui

Ce qui (what, that, which) functions as the **subject** of the subordinate clause.



Tammy: Edouard, tu as lu le roman de Tex sur la deuxième guerre mondiale?

Edouard: Ah oui! **Ce qui** est fascinant, **c'est** sa description de l'époque.

J'adore **tout ce qui** se rapporte à la Résistance!

Et puis, il y a une intrigue amoureuse, **ce qui** ne m'étonne pas puisque l'héroïne du livre s'appelle Marie-Tammy!

Tammy: Edouard, have you read Tex's novel on WWII?

Edouard: Ah, yes I have! What's fascinating is his description of the period.

I love everything that is related to the Resistance!

And there's also a love interest, which does not surprise me since the book's heroine is called Marie-Tammy!

Ce qui is often used for emphasis followed by **c'est**. Note how the sentence '**Ce qui** est fascinant, **c'est** sa description de l'époque.' is more emphatic than saying simply 'Sa description de l'époque est fascinante.'

ce que

Ce que (what, that, which) functions as the **direct object** of the subordinate clause. **Ce que** becomes **ce qu'** before a word beginning with a vowel.



Tammy: **Tout ce que** Tex crée est tellement original!

Moi, j'aime **ce qu'**il écrit à propos de la France dans les années 1940.

Ce que je n'aime pas, **c'est** la fin du livre.

Tammy: Everything that Tex creates is so original!

Personally, I like what he writes about France in the 1940s.

What I don't like is the end of the book.

Le héros meurt. Il n'épouse donc pas Marie-Tammy, **ce que** je trouve très dommage.

The hero dies. So he does not marry Marie-Tammy, which I think is such a pity.

Note how the sentence '**Ce que** je n'aime pas, **c'est** la fin du livre.' is more emphatic than saying simply 'Je n'aime pas la fin du livre.'

Note that **ce qui** and **ce que** are also used in indirect discourse (see [reported speech](#)).



exercices

fill in the blanks

Fill in the blank with the correct relative pronoun, either *ce qui* or *ce que/ce qu'*.

1. Tex aime tout _____ Tammy fait.
2. _____ est incroyable, c'est la rencontre de Tex et Tammy.
3. Tex, _____ je n'aime pas chez toi, c'est ton snobisme!
4. Bette ne sait pas _____ a Tammy.
5. Joe-Bob ne comprend pas _____ Tex et Tammy disent.
6. Je ne sais pas _____ rend Corey si triste.
7. Vous savez _____ on va faire ce soir?
8. _____ me surprend, c'est que Tex soit américain.
9. Paw-Paw a combattu dans la seconde guerre mondiale, _____ Tex admire beaucoup.
10. Tammy adore _____ Tex a écrit.
11. _____ est dommage, c'est que Paw-Paw habite si loin.
12. _____ Tex regrette, c'est que Paw-Paw téléphone tout le temps.