


1. dont, où, lequel
2. ce dont, ce + preposition + quoi

A relative pronoun introduces a clause that explains or describes a previously mentioned noun. In instances where the relative pronoun is the object of a preposition, relative pronouns other than **qui** and **que** must be used. **De** is the most common of these prepositions, and **dont** is the relative pronoun representing both the preposition **de** + its object.

dont, où, lequel: relative pronouns with antecedent

• dont


Use **dont** if the subordinate clause needs an object introduced by **de/d'**. Such clauses may indicate possession or they may contain verbs which are followed by the preposition **de**. Some of these verbs include 'parler de' (to talk about); 'avoir besoin de' (to need); 'avoir peur de' (to be afraid of); 'tenir de' (to take after).

 Tex: Le livre **dont** je suis l'auteur est un roman historique.

Tex: The book **of which** I'm the author is an historical novel.




Dont often indicates possession; 'whose' is its English equivalent.

 Edouard, parlant du livre de Tex: Tex, **dont** le grand-père a combattu en France, en 40, a dédié ce livre à Paw-Paw.

Edouard, speaking about Tex' book: Tex, **whose** grandfather fought in France in '40, dedicated this book to Paw-Paw.

• où

The relative pronoun **où** means 'where, in which, on which.' Use **où** if the subordinate clause needs an object indicating location introduced by **dans, à, sur, sous**. When used after adverbs of time, **où** means 'when.'

 Paris, **où** l'histoire commence, va être libéré par les Américains.

Paris, **where** the story starts, is going to be liberated by the Americans.


Paw-Paw était à Paris le jour **où** les Américains sont entrés dans la ville.

Paw-Paw was in Paris the day [**when**] the Americans entered the city.

• preposition + lequel, laquelle, lesquels, lesquelles

The relative pronouns **lequel, laquelle, lesquels, et lesquelles** (which) are used when the relative clause is introduced by a preposition other than **de/d'**. These pronouns make the usual **contractions** with the prepositions **à** and **de**. Note that the preposition in French must always be placed immediately in front of the relative pronoun.



 Ce roman, **dans lequel** Tex utilise les souvenirs de guerre de Paw-Paw, est très réaliste.

This novel, **in which** Tex uses Paw-Paw's war memories, is very realistic.

Ses personnages, **auxquels** Tex s'identifie, sont des héros de la Résistance.

L'homme **à côté duquel** Marie-Tammy est assise est un officier nazi.

Les hommes **parmi lesquels** Marie-Tammy se trouve sont tous des nazis.

Les deux femmes **entre lesquelles** l'officier se trouve font partie de la Résistance.

His characters, **with whom** Tex identifies, are heroes of the Resistance.

The man **next to whom** Marie-Tammy is seated is a Nazi officer.

The men **among whom** Marie-Tammy finds herself are all Nazis.

The two women **between whom** the officer is seated are part of the Resistance.

Note: The form **dont** is generally used in spoken French instead of the forms **duquel**, **de laquelle**, **desquels**, and **desquelles**; however, these latter forms may also be found, especially in written texts. **Dont** may be substituted only for the simple preposition **de** and its object, but a form of **lequel** must be used when **de** is part of a two- or three-word preposition, such as 'à propos de, près de, loin de, à côté de.'

ce dont, ce + preposition + quoi : relative pronouns with no antecedent

In all the preceding examples, the relative pronouns have an antecedent; in other words, a specific word in the sentence for which the relative pronoun stands. Just as the forms **ce qui** and **ce que** are used when there is no explicit antecedent, so the forms **ce dont** and **ce + preposition + quoi** refer to something unstated and unspecified.

Use **ce dont** if the subordinate clause needs an object introduced by **de**.



On comprend très bien **ce dont** les Parisiens avaient peur pendant l'Occupation.

One understands very well **what** the Parisians were afraid **of** during the Occupation.

Use **ce + preposition + quoi** when the subordinate clause needs an object introduced by a preposition other than **de**. Remember that, unlike English, the preposition in French must always be placed immediately in front of the relative pronoun.



Tout le monde va comprendre **ce à quoi** Tex fait allusion quand il décrit Jean-Tex et Marie-Tammy--il s'agit bien de Tex et Tammy, nos tatous favoris!

Everybody's going to understand **what** Tex is alluding **to** when he describes Jean-Tex and Marie-Tammy--it's indeed a matter of Tex and Tammy, our favorite armadillos!



exercices

fill in the blanks

Fill in the blank with the correct relative pronoun: dont, où, lequel, ce dont or ce à quoi.

1. Tammy : Lyon est la ville _____ Tex a grandi.
2. Joe-Bob : Je n'ai pas lu le livre _____ tu parles.
3. Tex : Le roman dans _____ Marie-Tammy apparaît s'appelle Guerre et amour.
4. Fiona : Le garçon _____ Bette est amoureuse est ...Tex!
5. Bette : _____ je parle n'a rien à voir avec Tex.
6. Tammy : Tex, tu sais _____ je pense?
7. Tammy : Voici l'endroit _____ je veux me marier, Tex!
8. Tammy : Tex, tu es le tatou avec _____ je veux me marier!
9. Paw-Paw est un ancien combattant, _____ Tex est très fier.

10. Trey : Les chansons _____ je suis l'auteur sont au TOP20.
11. Tex : Tu me demandes _____ je réfléchis? A mon prochain poème bien sûr!
12. Tammy : Le béret _____ j'ai fait cadeau à Tex est superbe.