

Chapter 15

The Relative Pronoun

15.1 The Relative Pronoun is used in the same way in both Greek and English - it links a clause back to the main clause in a sentence.

The Greek Relative Pronoun looks very similar to the Definite Article, except that it does not have a τ in the stem, and it has an accent, whereas the Definite Article usually has no accent.

The context will usually make it clear as to whether we have a Relative Pronoun or a Definite Article.

		Masc.	Fem.	Neut.	M/F	N
Singular	Nom.	ὅς	ἥ	ὃ	who	which
	Acc.	ὄν	ἣν	ὄ	whom	which
	Gen.	οὗ	ἥς	οὔ	whose	of which
	Dat.	ὧ	ἣ	ὧ	to whom	to which
Plural	Nom.	οἱ	αἱ	ἃ	who	which
	Acc.	οὓς	ἃς	ἃ	whom	which
	Gen.	ῶν	ῶν	ῶν	whose	of which
	Dat.	οἷς	αἰς	οἷς	to whom	to which

15.2 Examples - Consider the sentences :

"I see the man. The man is good."	
English would link these as "I see the man who is good."	Greek would use ὅς
"I see the woman. The woman is good."	
English would link these as "I see the woman who is good."	Greek would use ἥ
"I see the book. The book is good."	
English would link these as "I see the book which is good."	Greek would use ὃ
"I see the man. You saw the man"	
English would link these as "I see the man whom you saw."	Greek would use ὄν
"I see the woman. You saw the woman"	
English would link these as "I see the woman whom you saw."	Greek would use ἣν
"I see the book. You saw the book"	
English would link these as "I see the book which you saw."	Greek would use ὄ
"I see the man. The man's coat is blue."	
English would link these as "I see the man whose coat is blue."	Greek would use οὗ
"I see the woman. The woman's coat is blue."	
English would link these as "I see the woman whose coat is blue."	Greek would use ἥς
"I see the book. The book's cover is blue."	
English would link these as "I see the book of which the cover is blue."	Greek would use οὔ
"I see the man. I gave a dog to the man."	
English would link these as "I see the man to whom I gave a dog."	Greek would use ὧ
"I see the woman. I gave a dog to the woman."	
English would link these as "I see the woman to whom I gave a dog."	Greek would use ἣ
"I see the book. I gave a dollar for the book."	
English would link these as "I see the book for which I gave a dollar."	Greek would use ὧ

NOTE that the gender and number of the Relative Pronoun are the same as those of the word to which it refers, but the case is determined by how it functions in its clause.

Probably the most frequently occurring example of the Relative Pronoun in the New Testament is **ὧ** - "to whom". We meet it very frequently in the Epistles, when the writer is speaking of Christ, and gets carried away and adds "to whom be honor and glory" or some similar phrase.

If we miss the **ὧ** we miss the whole structure of the sentence - so

"Watch out for those ὧ-s"

The Relative Pronoun is another good place for breaking a long sentence into sections.

15.3 Practice - until you can read and translate easily

1. βλέπω τον δεσμιον ὅς ἐν τη φυλακῇ ἐστίν. I see the prisoner who is in the prison.
2. βλέπεις τὴν νεφέλην ἣν ἐν τῷ οὐρανῷ ἐστίν. You see the cloud which is in the sky.
3. βλέπετε τὴν φυλακὴν ἐν ἣ ὁ δεσμιος ἦν. You see the prison in which the prisoner was.
4. βλέπομεν τὴν χηρὰν ἧς ὁ υἱὸς νεκρὸς ἐστίν. We see the widow whose son is dead.
5. ἡ χηρὰ βλέπει τὸν υἱὸν ὃν ἀγαπᾷ. The widow sees the son whom she loves.
6. ζητοῦμεν τὸν θεὸν ᾧ δόξα καὶ τιμὴ. We seek God, to whom (be) glory and honor.
7. βλέπω τοὺς φίλους μου οἷς συ λαλεῖς. I see my friends, to whom you are speaking.
8. βλέπομεν τὰ πλοῖα ἃ ἐπὶ τῆς θαλάσσης εἰσίν. We see the boats which are on the sea.
9. βλέπουσιν τὴν κωμὴν ἐν ἣ ἡ χηρὰ ἦν. They see the village in which the widow was.
10. οὗτος ἐστίν ὁ οἶκος οὗ ἡ θύρα μικρὰ ἐστίν. This is the house whose door is small.

15.4 Sentences for reading and translation

1. ἀπαγγέλλω ὑμῖν τὸ εὐαγγέλιον τοῦ Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ ᾧ τιμὴ καὶ δόξα.
2. ἀναγινώσκετε τὴν καινὴν διαθήκην ἐν ἣ εὕρισκετε τὴν ἀληθειαν.
3. οὐ γινώσκομεν τὸν ἀριθμὸν τῶν ἁγίων οἳ μετὰ τοῦ θεοῦ εἰσίν.
4. ὁ Ἰησοῦς θεραπεύει τὸν τυφλὸν ὅς ἐν τῷ ἱερῷ ἦν.
5. ὁ ἁμαρτωλὸς εἶπεν, Οὐ γινώσκετε τὰ ἔργα ἃ ποιῶ.
6. ὁ θεὸς ἀκούει τὰς προσευχὰς
αἱ ἐν τῇ καρδίᾳ τοῦ δικαίου ἀδελφοῦ ἐκείνου εἰσίν.
7. βλέπεις τὸν θρόνον τοῦ θεοῦ ὅς ἐν τοῖς οὐρανοῖς ἐστίν ;
8. οὗτος ἐστίν ὁ στρατιωτὴς ὅς εἶπεν ὅτι ἀγαπᾷ τὸν κυρίον.
9. αὐτὸς ὁ θεός, ᾧ τιμὴ καὶ δόξα, λαμβάνει τὴν προσευχὴν ἡμῶν.
10. μετὰ ταῦτα Ἰησοῦς βλέπει τὸν Ναθαναὴλ ὅς ὑπὸ τὸ δένδρον ἦν.

15.5 Writing Practice : Write the Greek, while saying aloud (Matt. 6:9-13)

πατερ ἡμῶν ὁ ἐν τοῖς οὐρανοῖς, ἁγιασθῆτω τὸ ὄνομα σου, ἔλθετω ἡ βασιλεία σου, γενηθῆτω τὸ θελημα σου, ὡς ἐν οὐρανῷ καὶ ἐπὶ γῆς.	Our Father, the (one) in the heavens, let your name be sanctified, let your kingdom come, let your will / wish happen (come to pass), just as in heaven (so) also on earth.
τὸν ἄρτον ἡμῶν τὸν ἐπιούσιον δος ἡμῖν σημερον· καὶ ἀφες ἡμῖν τὰ ὀφειλήματα ἡμῶν ὡς καὶ ἡμεῖς ἀφηκάμεν τοῖς ὀφειλεταῖς ἡμῶν· καὶ μὴ εἰσενεγκῆς ἡμᾶς εἰς πειρασμόν, ἀλλὰ ῥύσαι ἡμᾶς ἀπὸ τοῦ πονηροῦ, ὅτι σου ἐστίν ἡ βασιλεία καὶ ἡ δύναμις καὶ ἡ δόξα	Our bread of / for the day give to us today; and remit/forgive (to) us our debts/guilt, just as we have forgiven our debtors: and don't bring us into a testing (time), but rescue us from the evil one, since yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,

15.6 New Testament Passages for reading and translation

Matthew 3:17, Ephesians 1:13

In your Greek New Testament, read the passages aloud several times until you can read them without long pauses or stumbling. Then use the translation helps to translate them.

In the passage from Ephesians, "ἐν ᾧ" refers back to "ἐν τῷ Χριστῷ" in the previous verses.

λεγουσα	saying (<i>feminine Nom. singular participle, going with φωνη</i>)
εὐδοκησα	I am well pleased (<i>from εὐδοκεω - I take delight in</i>)
και ὑμεις	you also
ἀκουσαντες	having heard (<i>a participle of ἀκουω, describing ὑμεις</i>)
και πιστευσαντες	having also believed (<i>from πιστευω - I believe, trust in</i>)
ἐσφραγισθητε	you were sealed/signed (<i>a past tense of σφραγιζω - I seal</i>)
τῷ πνευματι	by/with/in the Spirit (<i>Dat. sing. of το πνεῦμα - the spirit</i>)
τῷ πνευματι τῷ ἁγίῳ	by/with/in the Holy Spirit

15.7 Vocabulary to learn

ἡ διαθήκη	covenant, testament (<i>the New Testament is ἡ καινη διαθηκη</i>)
ἡ δικαιοσύνη	righteousness (<i>δικαιος -α -ον = righteous</i>)
ἡ κώμη	village (<i>the word "comic" is derived from κωμη. Greek drama dealt mainly with gods and goddesses and with kings, queens, heroes, and heroines, and was often tragic. To lighten the mood, the dramas sometimes included a "country bumpkin" comic character - someone from a κωμη</i>)
ἡ νεφέλη	cloud (<i>hence "nebulous". A nebula is a cloud of stars</i>)
ἡ προσευχή	prayer
ἡ τιμή	honor, price, value (<i>τιμαω - I honor</i>)
ἡ φυλακή	prison, guard, watch (time of night)
ἡ ἐπαγγελία	promise
ἡ μετάνοια	repentance, change of thinking (<i>from μετα + νους - mind</i>)
ἡ πέτρα	rock
ἡ σκοτία	darkness
ἡ σωτηρία	salvation (<i>σωζω - I save</i>)
ἡ χήρα	widow
ἡ Γαλιλαία	Galilee
ἡ Ἰουδαία	Judea
το πνεῦμα	spirit, wind, breath (<i>hence "pneumatic" Do not try to use other cases yet</i>)
δοκέω	I think, suppose, seem
εὐδοκέω	I am well pleased with
πιστεύω	I believe in, trust in (<i>takes Dative</i>)
ἰδοῦ	behold! look! (<i>ἰδου is an imperative - an order - which can be used as an interjection in Greek exactly as in English, in the sense of "pay attention!"</i>)
ὅς, ἦ, ὅ	who (<i>do not use ὅς, ἦ, ὅ for asking the question "who?" - use τίς ;</i>)
διό	therefore, for this (reason) (<i>from δι' ὃ "because of which"</i>)
εὖ	well