

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.	ὁς	ἥ	ὅ	who	which
	Acc.	ὄν	ἣν	ὄ	whom	which
	Gen.	οῦ	ἧς	οὔ	whose	of which
	Dat.	ᾧ	ἣ	ᾧ	to whom	to which
Plural	Nom.	οἱ	αἱ	ἃ	who	which
	Acc.	οὓς	ἃς	ἃ	whom	which
	Gen.	ᾧν	ᾧν	ᾧν	whose	of which
	Dat.	οἷς	αἷς	οἷς	to whom	to which

15.2 Examples - Consider the sentences

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

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 ᾧ - "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 ᾧ we miss the whole structure of the sentence - so

"Watch out for those ᾧ-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 τὸν δέσμιον ὃς ἐν τῇ φυλακῇ ἐστίν. I see the prisoner who is in the prison.
2. βλέπεις τὴν νεφέλην ἣ ἐν τῷ οὐρανῷ ἐστίν. You see the cloud which is in the sky.
3. βλέπετε τὴν φυλακὴν ἐν ἣ ὁ δέσμιος ἦν. You see the prison in which the prisoner was.
4. βλέπομεν τὴν χήραν ἧς ὁ υἱὸς νεκρὸς ἐστίν. We see the widow whose son is dead.
5. ἡ χήρα 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 φιλοῦς μου οἷς σὺ 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 κώμην ἐν ἣ ἡ χήρα ἦν. They see the village in which the widow was.
10. οὗτός ἐστιν ὁ οἶκος οὗ ἡ θύρα μικρά 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 εὐρίσκετε τὴν ἀλήθειαν.
3. οὐ γινώσκομεν τὸν ἀριθμὸν τῶν ἀγίων οἱ μετὰ τοῦ θεοῦ εἰσίν.
4. ὁ Ἰησοῦς θεραπεύει τὸν τυφλὸν ὃς 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 ὃς ἐν τοῖς οὐρανοῖς ἐστίν ;
8. οὗτός ἐστιν ὁ στρατιώτης ὃς εἶπεν ὅτι ἀγαπᾷ τὸν κύριον.
9. αὐτὸς ὁ θεός, ᾧ τιμὴ καὶ δόξα, λαμβάνει τὴν προσευχὴν ἡμῶν.
10. μετὰ ταῦτα Ἰησοῦς βλέπει τὸν Ναθαναὴλ ὃς ὑπὸ τὸ δένδρον ἦν.

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

πάτερ ἡμῶν ὁ ἐν τοῖς οὐρανοῖς, ἀγιασθήτω τὸ ὄνομά σου, ἐλθέτω ἡ βασιλεία σου, γενηθήτω τὸ θέλημά 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 δὸς ἡμῖν σήμερον · καὶ ἄφες ἡμῖν τὰ ὀφειλήματα ἡμῶν ὡς καὶ ἡμεῖς ἀφήκαμεν τοῖς ὀφειλέταις ἡμῶν · καὶ μὴ εἰσενέγκῃς ἡμᾶς εἰς πειρασμόν, ἀλλὰ ρῦσαι ἡμᾶς ἀπὸ τοῦ πονηροῦ, ὅτι σοῦ ἐστὶν ἡ βασιλεία καὶ ἡ δύναμις καὶ ἡ δόξα	Our bread for the day give to us today; and remit/forgive (to) us our debts/guilt, just as we also have forgiven our debtors: and don't bring us into a testing , 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.

λέγουσα	saying (<i>feminine nom. singular participle, going with φωνή</i>)
εὐδόκησα	I am well pleased (<i>from εὐδοκέω - I take delight in</i>)
καὶ ὑμεῖς	you also
ἀκούσαντες	having heard (<i>a participle of ἀκούω, describing ὑμεῖς</i>)
καὶ πιστεύσαντες	having also believed (<i>from πιστεύω - I believe, trust in</i>)
ἐσφραγίσθητε	you were sealed/signed (<i>a past tense of σφραγίζω - I seal</i>)
τῷ πνεύματι	by/with/in the Spirit (<i>dat. sing. of τὸ πνεῦμα - the spirit</i>)
τῷ πνεύματι τῷ ἁγίῳ	by/with/in the Holy Spirit

15.7 Vocabulary to learn

ἡ διαθήκη	covenant, testament (<i>the New Testament is ἡ καινὴ διαθήκη</i>)
ἡ δικαιοσύνη	righteousness (<i>δίκαιος -α -ον = righteous</i>)
ἡ κώμη	village (<i>the word "comic" is derived from κώμη. 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 κώμη</i>)
ἡ νεφέλη	cloud (<i>hence "nebulous". A nebula is a cloud of stars</i>)
ἡ προσευχή	prayer
ἡ τιμή	honor, price, value (<i>τιμάω - I honor</i>)
ἡ φυλακή	prison, guard, watch (time of night)
ἡ ἐπαγγελία	promise
ἡ μετάνοια	repentance, change of thinking (<i>from μετά + νοῦς - mind</i>)
ἡ πέτρα	rock
ἡ σκοτία	darkness
ἡ σωτηρία	salvation (<i>σώζω - I save</i>)
ἡ χήρα	widow
ἡ Γαλιλαία	Galilee
ἡ Ἰουδαία	Judea
τὸ 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>)
ἰδοὺ	behold! look! (<i>ἰδοὺ 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, ἧ, ὅ	who (<i>Do not use ὅς, ἧ, ὅ for asking the question "who?" - use τίς ;</i>)
διό	therefore, for this (reason) (<i>from δι' ὃ "because of which"</i>)
εὖ	well