

# 18. Relative Pronouns

## Lesson in a Nutshell

The relative pronoun (“who,” “which”) looks like the 2-1-2 noun ending chart. They always have a rough breathing and an accent mark. Relative pronouns introduce relative clauses.

Relative pronouns introduce relative clauses. Here are some examples of relative clauses in English.

The man who is teaching us Greek is bald.

Students who listen well will pass this class.

Joy will fill the hearts of people on whom the Spirit falls.

Is this the book of which you speak?

Do you see how in each case, the underlined clause acts like an adjective to modify a noun?

The “who-is-teaching-us-Greek” man.

The “who-listen-well” students.

The “on-whom-the-Spirit-falls” people.

The “of-which-you-speak” book.

The confusing thing is that in English, the relative pronoun and the interrogative pronoun use the same forms. For example, I might say:

Who is teaching us Greek?

Who is listening well?

On whom does the Spirit fall?

If the pronoun asks a question, it is an interrogative pronoun.

If it connects a relative clause with a noun, it is a relative pronoun.

This is a problem with **English**, not Greek. Greek has different forms for the relative and interrogative pronouns.

Relative: ὅ

Interrogative: τίς

We will meet the interrogative pronoun in our next lesson.

In English, the relative pronoun is “who,” “whom,” or “which.” It does not change form very much.

In Greek, every relative pronoun will give you its case, number and gender. Therefore, there will be more forms.

The relative pronoun is very easy to recognize. It follows a nice 2-1-2 pattern, the one we are growing to love.

The relative pronoun looks very much like the noun endings chart with one important difference. Do you see it?

Relative Pronoun				Noun Endings		
	M (2)	F (1)	N (2)	Masculine (2nd declension)	Feminine (1st declension)	Neuter (2nd declension)
Singular	Nom	ὅς who	ἥ who	ὅς λογος word	α or η αρχη beginning	ον εργον work
	Gen	οῦ of whom	ἧς of whom	ου λογου of a word	ας or ης αρχης of a beginning	ου εργου of work
	Dat	ᾧ to whom	ἡί to whom	ῳ λογω to a word	α or η αρχη to a beginning	ῳ εργω to work
	Acc	ὃν whom	ἣν whom	ον λογον word	αν or ην αρχην beginning	ον εργον work
Plural	Nom	οἱ who	αἱ who	οι λογοι words	αι αρχαι beginnings	α εργα works
	Gen	ῶν of whom	ῶν of whom	ων λογων of words	ων αρχων of beginnings	ων εργων of works
	Dat	οἷς to whom	αἷς to whom	οις λογοις to words	αις αρχαις to beginnings	οις εργοις to works
	Acc	οὓς whom	ἄς whom	ους λογους words	ας αρχας beginnings	α εργα works

The relative pronoun will **always** have **both** a  
rough breathing mark  
**and**  
an accent.

You will find relative pronouns relatively easy to spot.

Remember: when you see a relative pronoun, look for a relative clause that modifies some noun.