



## Relative Pronouns PRONOMI RELATIVI

### Che

**Che** is a relative pronoun used for things and people:

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Hai conosciuto il ragazzo <b>che</b> studia filosofia? | <i>Have you met the young man who studies philosophy?</i> |
| Ho letto il libro <b>che</b> mi hai prestato.          | <i>I read the book that you lent to me.</i>               |

**Che** always refers back to a noun in the sentence (this is called the “antecedent”). Below, each antecedent (**il ragazzo** and **il libro**) is connected to its relative pronoun **che**.

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Hai conosciuto <b>il ragazzo che</b> studia filosofia?<br> | <i>Have you met the young man who studies philosophy?</i> |
| Ho letto <b>il libro che</b> mi hai prestato.<br>        | <i>I read the book that you lent to me.</i>               |

### Chi

**Chi** is a relative pronoun used only for people:

The pronoun **chi**, unlike **che**, does not have an expressed antecedent. There is no word in the sentence that **chi** can refer back to. Therefore **chi** is mainly used in **direct** or **indirect questions**.

**Chi** can also be used as an object of a preposition.

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Chi</b> hai conosciuto nel tuo corso di italiano?  | <i>Who did you meet in your Italian course?</i>             |
| Non so ancora <b>chi</b> verrà alla festa di stasera. | <i>I don't know yet who will come to the party tonight.</i> |
| <b>Con chi</b> vai al cinema?                         | <i>Who are you going to the movies with?</i>                |
| Non ho ancora capito <b>su chi</b> posso contare!     | <i>I still don't understand whom I can count on!</i>        |

## Quello che, quel che, ciò che

**Quello che, quel che** and **ciò che** are synonyms and are used only for things.

These pronouns do not have an expressed antecedent. There is no word in the sentence that they can refer back to. When **Che cosa ...?** is used in a question, **quello che, quel che** or **ciò che** are often used in the answer.

When “**che**” in **quello che, quel che,** and **ciò che** is an object of a preposition, it becomes “**cui**”: **quello di cui, quello per cui,** etc.




Study the following examples:

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Che cosa</b> hai detto?<br>Non ho sentito <b>quello che</b> hai detto.                                  | <i>What did you say?</i><br><i>I didn't hear what you said.</i>                               |
| <b>-Che cosa</b> hai fatto questa estate?<br>- Come? Non ti ho ancora raccontato <b>ciò che</b> ho fatto?! | <i>- What did you do this summer?</i><br><i>- Really? I haven't told you yet what I did?!</i> |
| Non capisco mai <b>quello di cui</b> ha bisogno.   | <i>I never understand what he needs.</i>  |
| Approvo tutto <b>quello per cui</b> lotta.   | <i>I approve everything he fights for.</i>  |

## Cui

**Cui** must be used:

- with a preposition: **in cui, di cui, da cui, per cui, su cui, a cui, con cui.**
- when there is an expressed antecedent in the sentence.

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Questo è <b>il ragazzo con cui</b> esco.<br>                 | <i>This is the young man I go out with.</i><br><i>[This is the young man with whom I go out.]</i>                          |
| Qual è il titolo del <b>libro di cui</b> mi hai parlato?<br> | <i>What is the title of the book you told me about?</i><br><i>[What is the title of the book about which you told me?]</i> |
| Ho <b>molti amici su cui</b> posso contare.<br>              | <i>I have many friends I can count on.</i><br><i>[I have many friends on whom I can count.]</i>                            |

- Notice that the prepositions cannot be separated from the pronouns as it is often done in English.

UNIT 6.3 *Grammatica*

“The reason why” is translated with: **la ragione per cui**.

“The way (in which)” is translated with: **il modo in cui**.

See the following phrases:

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Ora capisco <b>la ragione per cui</b> ha lasciato l'Italia. | <i>Now I understand the reason why he left Italy.</i> |
| Non mi piace <b>il modo in cui</b> si veste.                | <i>I don't like the way he dresses.</i>               |

### Summary

The chart below shows a summary of relative pronouns:

|  | <i>relative pronoun</i>                    | <i>relative pronoun with a preposition</i>                   |
|--|--|--|
| <i>for people and things<br/>with antecedent</i> | <i>che</i>                                 | <i>in cui<br/>di cui<br/>da cui<br/>per cui<br/>etc.</i>     |
| <i>for people<br/>without antecedent</i>         | <i>chi</i>                                 | <i>di chi<br/>da chi<br/>per chi<br/>etc.</i>                |
| <i>for things<br/>without antecedent</i>         | <i>quello che<br/>quel che<br/>ciò che</i> | <i>quello di cui<br/>quel di cui<br/>ciò di cui<br/>etc.</i> |