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Pronouns

PRONOUNS L6 – RELATIVE PRONOUNS

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Video Lesson:

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WHAT ARE RELATIVE PRONOUNS?

We use relative pronouns to start relative clauses.

You have to decline relative pronouns.

The gender (masculine, feminine, neuter) and number (singular or plural) relate to the corresponding noun.

The case is determined by its position and function **in the relative clause**.

RELATIVE PRONOUNS – FORMS

Relative pronouns are declined almost exactly like the corresponding definite articles.

	Nominative	Accusative	Dative	Genitive
Masculine	der	den	dem	dessen
Neuter	das	das	dem	dessen
Feminine	die	die	der	deren
Plural	die	die	denen	deren

In **genitive** and **dative** plural, we take the definite article and add an "en". Instead of "der", "die", or "das", we can also use "welcher" as a relative pronoun.

	Nominative	Accusative	Dative	Genitive
Masculine	welcher	welchen	welchem	welches
Neuter	welches	welches	welchem	welches
Feminine	welche	welche	welcher	welcher
Plural	welche	welche	welchen	welcher

HOW DO YOU DETERMINE THE RELATIVE PRONOUN?

Example: „Das ist der Mann, **der** einen Ferrari hat.“

1. To which noun does the relative pronoun refer to?
Answer: "der Mann"
2. What is the gender and number of the reference word ("der Mann")?
Answer: Masculine and singular.
3. Which case does the relative pronoun have in the subordinate clause?
Answer: **Nominative**.

4. Pronoun = Masculine + Singular + Nominative → "der"

RELATIVE PRONOUNS WITH PREPOSITIONS

If there is a preposition before the to-be-replaced noun in the relative clause, the same preposition must come before the relative pronoun. It doesn't matter if there was a preposition before the noun in the main clause or not.

- „Da kommt **der Bus**. Wir warten schon so lange **auf ihn** (den Bus).“
- „Da kommt **der Bus**, **auf den** wir schon so lange warten.“
- „Dort ist **die Schule**. Ich bin früher **in sie** (die Schule) gegangen.“
- „Dort ist **die Schule**, **in die** ich früher gegangen bin.“

SUMMARY

- We use relative pronouns to start relative clauses.
- You have to decline relative pronouns.
- They get the genus and the numerus from the reference word.
- They get the case according to the situation in the relative clause.

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