

Note that when *-αντ-*, *-εντ-*, or *-οντ-* are combined with the ending, *ντ* is lost and a long vowel or diphthong appears by a process called **compensatory lengthening**. A diphthong which results from compensatory lengthening is called a **spurious diphthong**.

Accusative plural: Contrast the ending *-ας* of the third declension with the ending *-ᾶς* of the first declension.

Drills I and II, page 156, may now be done.

49. THE RELATIVE PRONOUN

A noun or pronoun can be modified by an adjective (*ὁ ἀγαθὸς ἄνθρωπος*, the good man), by another noun in the genitive case (*τὸ Ὅμηρου βιβλίον*, Homer's book), by a prepositional phrase (*οἱ ἐν τῇ χώρᾳ πολῖται*, the citizens in the land), or by an adverb (*οἱ νῦν πολῖται*, present-day citizens).

A noun or pronoun can also be modified by a dependent clause called a **relative clause**, introduced by the **relative pronoun**. Here are some examples in English.

The poet **who wrote the book** is good.

The poet **whose book** (= of whom the book) we sent to the island is good.

The poet **to whom we sent the book** is good.

The poet **whom we educated** is good.

None of these relative clauses is a complete sentence. Each is a dependent clause within a complex sentence which also contains a main or independent clause. The relative clauses simply modify the noun "poet" and specify a particular poet.

In Greek as in English the relative pronoun performs two functions:

- (1) It refers back to the noun in the independent clause which is its **antecedent** ("poet" in the examples above).
- (2) It has its own grammatical function within the relative clause. In the first example "who" is the subject of the verb "wrote"; in the second, "whose" modifies "book" and shows possession; in the third, the phrase "to whom" is the indirect object of the verb "sent"; in the fourth, "whom" is the direct object of the verb "educated."

In Greek the relative pronoun, like all nouns, pronouns, and adjectives, has gender, number, and case.

THE RELATIVE PRONOUN REFERS TO AN ANTECEDENT IN THE INDEPENDENT CLAUSE AND ALWAYS HAS THE SAME GENDER AND THE SAME NUMBER AS THAT ANTECEDENT.

BUT THE CASE OF THE RELATIVE PRONOUN DEPENDS ENTIRELY ON ITS GRAMMATICAL FUNCTION WITHIN THE DEPENDENT CLAUSE.

Thus in the examples above all four relative pronouns would in Greek be *masculine* and *singular* because all refer back to the masculine singular antecedent, "poet." But the relative pronoun would appear in a *different case* in each example: nominative in the first, genitive in the second, dative in the third, and accusative in the fourth.

Drill III, pages 156–57, may now be done.

The relative pronoun belongs to the first and second declensions. It is declined as follows:

	M	F	N
Nom. S	ὁς	ἡ	ὅ
Gen.	οῦ	ἧς	οῦ
Dat.	ᾧ	ἣ	ᾧ
Acc.	ὃν	ἣν	ὄ
Nom. P	οἷ	αἷ	ἃ
Gen.	ᾧν	ᾧν	ᾧν
Dat.	οἷς	αἷς	οἷς
Acc.	οὓς	ἄς	ἃ

Observations: (1) Compare the declension of the article (Section 16); the relative pronoun differs from the article in that *all* its forms have a rough breathing and take an accent. Also, its masculine nominative singular ends in -ς.

(2) The relative pronoun has no vocative case.

The examples above can now be rendered in Greek:

ἀγαθὸς ὁ ποιητῆς ὃς τὸ βιβλίον ἔγραψεν.

The poet **who wrote the book** is good.

ἀγαθὸς ὁ ποιητῆς οὗ τὸ βιβλίον εἰς τὴν νῆσον ἐπέμψαμεν.

The poet **whose book we sent to the island** is good.

ἀγαθὸς ὁ ποιητῆς ᾧ τὸ βιβλίον ἐπέμψαμεν.
The poet **to whom we sent the book** is good.

ἀγαθὸς ὁ ποιητῆς ὃν ἐπαιδεύσαμεν.
The poet **whom we educated** is good.

When translating relative clauses within complete sentences one must carefully distinguish the independent clause, with its subject, verb, and (possible) objects, from the dependent relative clause, with its own separate subject, verb, and (possible) objects. Remember that the relative pronoun takes from its antecedent *gender and number only*; its *case* is determined by its function within the relative clause.

παιδεύσομεν τοὺς ποιητὰς οἱ βιβλία γράψουσιν.
We shall educate the poets **who** will write books.

Antecedent of relative pronoun:

ποιητὰς: masculine plural

Function in dependent clause:

subject of γράψουσιν: nominative

Form of relative pronoun:

masculine plural nominative

ἀγαθὴ ἡ ψυχὴ ἣν παιδεύεις, ὦ Ὅμηρε.
Good is the soul **which** you educate, Homer.

Antecedent of relative pronoun:

ψυχὴ: feminine singular

Function in dependent clause:

direct object of παιδεύεις: accusative

Form of relative pronoun:

feminine singular accusative

τὰ ὄπλα ἐπέμψατε οἷς ἔβλαψαν τὰ ζῷα.
You sent the weapons **with which** they harmed the animals.

Antecedent of relative pronoun:

ὄπλα: neuter plural

Function in dependent clause:

instrumental dative

Form of relative pronoun:

neuter plural dative

Drill IV, page 157, may now be done.