

48. Relative pronouns - other aspects

1 *De qui / duquel*

These are used as part of a longer phrase containing a preposition:

1.1 *De qui* is used for people:

L'homme **avec l'aide de qui** j'ai trouvé les documents ...

The man with whose help I found the documents ...

La femme **près de qui** j'étais assis ...

The woman next to whom I was sitting ...

1.2 And *duquel* and derivatives are used for things (note that *de laquelle* is always two words):

La montagne **sur les pistes de laquelle** il y a toujours beaucoup de neige ...

The mountain on whose slopes there is always plenty of snow ...

La maison **près de laquelle** l'incident a eu lieu ...

The house near to which the incident took place ...

2 *Où*

Où can be used to express various ideas of time and place where *auquel* or *dans lequel* would otherwise be used:

La ville **où** l'on m'a envoyé

The town to which I have been sent

A l'époque **où** je l'ai connu

At the time (that or when) I knew him

3 *Ce qui, ce que, ce dont*

These are used when referring to a non-specific idea:

Dis-moi **ce qui** s'est passé

Tell me what happened

Prends **ce que** tu veux

Take what you want

Voilà **ce dont** vous avez besoin

Here's what you need