

Relative Pronouns:

que (that, who, whom, which)

EX: el libro que compré the book that I bought
el niño que llora the child who cries
la mujer que vi the woman whom I saw
el libro de que hablé the book of which I spoke

- even if the word "that" is not expressed in English, que MUST be used in Spanish

EX: el hombre que conocí the man (that) I met

- que is used as an alternative to a form of el que or el cual after the prepositions a, con, de, and en. After a, con, and en, it refers to things, and after de it refers to things OR people.

EX: la casa en que vivo the house in which I live
el libro de que hablé the book of which I spoke
la chica de que hablé the girl of whom I spoke

- the word who, in the middle of a sentence, is NEVER quien, unless it is between commas. Que is also allowed between commas.

EX: el chico que salió the boy who left

quien/quienes (who/whom)

- quien/quienes are used after all prepositions to refer to people

EX: el niño de quien hablé the boy of whom I spoke

- these pronouns may be used between commas as an alternative to que

EX: El niño, quien salió, es mi amigo.

el cual, la cual, los cuales, las cuales (who, which, the one/s), AND el que, la que, los que, las que (who, which the one/s)

- these pronouns may be used after all prepositions

EX la montaña cerca de la cual/cerca de la que vivo (the mountain near which I live)

la colina desde la cual/desde la que vi la puesta del sol (the hill from which I saw the sunset)

- they are also used to clarify

EX: La novia de mi hermano, el cual vive en México, es brillante.
(the girlfriend of my brother, who lives in Mexico, is brilliant)
The el cual refers to the one brother that the speaker has.

La novia de mi hermano, la cual vive en México, es brillante.
(my brother's girlfriend, who lives in Mexico, is brilliant)
The la cual refers to the one girlfriend my brother has.

La novia de mi hermano, el que vive en México, es brillante.
(The girlfriend of my brother, (the one) who lives in Mexico, is brilliant.
The el que refers to one brother of two or more.

La novia de mi hermano, la que vive en México, es brillante.
(My brother's girlfriend, (the one) who lives in Mexico, is brilliant.
The la que refers to one girlfriend of two or more.

el que, la que, quien, los que, las que and quienes

- these are used to express he who, she who, the ones who, and those who

EX: El que estudia aprende. He who studies learns.

Los que aprenden tienen éxito. Those who learn are successful.

Quien come bien tiene salud. He who eats well is healthy.

Quienes escuchan bien aprenden mucho.

Those who listen well learn a lot.

Lo que

- lo que corresponds to the English what, which , or that which, and refers to a whole idea rather than to a specific noun.

EX: Ella llega tarde, lo que me molesta.

She arrives late, which bothers me.

Lo cual

- lo cual corresponds to the English which and, like lo que, refers to a whole idea rather than to a specific noun.

EX: Ella llega tarde, lo cual me molesta.

She arrives late, which bothers me.

Negó, por lo cual no jugamos.