

French Relative Pronouns: dont, lequel, où — Complex Forms Explained

Worksheet

Complex relative pronouns in French include *dont* (whose, of which, about which) for possession/relationships, *lequel/laquelle/lesquels/lesquelles* (which) agreeing with the noun, and *où* (where) for location — each requires specific antecedent context and preposition handling.

Questions

1. 'L'homme dont...' — function of 'dont'?

- A) subject
- B) possession
- C) location
- D) time

2. 'Les tables auxquelles' — what is 'auxquelles'?

- A) a + which (f.p.)
- B) lequel + à
- C) le + quel
- D) de + quelles

3. 'La maison où tu habites' — meaning of 'où'?

- A) which (object)
- B) where/in which
- C) whose
- D) of which

4. Agreement rule for 'lequel'?

- A) never agrees
- B) agrees with antecedent noun
- C) agrees with subject
- D) optional

5. L'homme dont j'ai oublié le nom est arrivé. (The man whose name I forgot arrived.)

6. Les livres auxquels je pense sont rares. (The books which I'm thinking of are rare.)

7. La ville où elle habite est magnifique. (The city where she lives is beautiful.)

8. Define: What does 'dont' mean?

9. Define: When do you use 'lequel'?

10. Define: What is the role of 'où'?

Answer Key

1. B) possession — dont shows possession or a de-relationship: 'the man whose...'.
2. A) a + which (f.p.) — auxquelles = à + lesquelles (feminine plural agreement).
3. B) where/in which — où marks location and replaces 'in/at which'.
4. B) agrees with antecedent noun — lequel agrees in gender and number with its antecedent noun.
5. dont shows possession; antecedent = l'homme (the man) dont j'ai oublié le nom = whose name I forgot
6. lequel → auxquels (à + lesquels) after preposition à Agreement: masculine plural to match 'livres'.
7. où = where (location) No preposition needed; où includes the preposition meaning.
8. Whose, of which, about which — shows possession or relationships with the antecedent.
9. After a preposition (à, de, sans, etc.) when referring to a noun; agrees with gender/number.
10. Marks location or time; replaces 'in/at which', 'when'.

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