



# SPANISH TABLE

Relative Pronouns



## Types of relative clauses

The relative pronoun functions as...	The antecedent is...	The relative pronoun you need is...	Examples	Explanation
The subject	Human	<i>que</i> <i>quien(es)</i> (in clauses between commas and when the antecedent is non-existent or included in the relative pronoun)	<i>El actor que sale en la última película de Gaspar Noé obtuvo un premio.</i> The actor (that=who) acts in Gaspar Noé's latest film won a prize. <i>Los atletas, quienes/que están cansados, pueden regresar a casa.</i> The athletes, who are tired, can head back home.	The relative pronoun <i>que</i> refers to <i>el actor</i> and is the subject of <i>sale</i> . The relative pronoun <i>quienes/que</i> refers to <i>los atletas</i> and is the subject of <i>están</i> .
	Non-human	<i>que</i>	<i>El vuelo que viene de Nueva York tiene retraso.</i> The flight that (=which) arrives from New York is delayed.	The relative pronoun <i>que</i> refers to <i>el vuelo</i> and is the subject of <i>viene</i> .
	Non-existent	<i>lo que</i>	<i>Lo que dijo en el juicio no es verdad.</i> What he said in the courtroom is not true.	The relative pronoun <i>lo que</i> is the subject of <i>dijo</i> and it doesn't have a referent.
	An entire clause	<i>lo que</i> <i>lo cual</i>	<i>Juan llegó tarde, lo que / lo cual es muy inusual.</i> Juan was late, which is very unusual.	The relative pronoun <i>lo que/lo cual</i> refers to the previous clause, <i>Juan llegó tarde</i> , and is the subject of <i>es</i> .





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The direct object	Human	<i>que</i> <i>quien(es)</i> (only in clauses between commas) <i>el/la/los/las que/cual(es)</i>	<i>Sus amigos, a quienes vi ayer, no le dijeron nada.</i> Her friends, whom I saw yesterday, didn't tell her anything.	The relative pronoun <i>quienes</i> refers to <i>sus amigos</i> , is the object of <i>vi</i> , accompanied of the personal <i>a</i> ( <i>ver</i> requires the use of the personal <i>a</i> if the direct object is specific and human).
	Non-human	<i>que</i> <i>el/la/los/las que/cual(es)</i>	<i>La camisa que compré ayer estaba de oferta.</i> The shirt that I bought yesterday was on sale.	The relative pronoun <i>que</i> refers to <i>la camisa</i> and is the direct object of <i>compré</i> (the shirt is what I bought).

### IMPORTANT

**Personal a** is used to mark direct object nouns that are specific and human.

In direct object relative clauses, personal *a* is required with relative pronouns: *quien(es)*, *el/la/los/las que/cual(es)*.

When the relative pronoun *que* is used in a defining relative clause (no commas), the personal *a* is not used:

*Los niños que vimos ayer eran mis sobrinos.* [The kids we saw yesterday were my nephews.]



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The indirect object	Human	<i>el/la/los/las que/cual(es) quien</i> (only in clauses between commas)	<i>El cliente al que / al cual enviamos un correo electrónico todavía no ha respondido.</i> The customer to whom we sent an email hasn't responded yet.	The relative pronoun <i>el que / el cual</i> refers to <i>el cliente</i> and is the indirect object of <i>enviamos</i> , accompanied by the preposition <b>a</b> which marks the indirect object.
	Non-human	<i>el/la/los/las que/cual(es)</i>	<i>El café al que / al cual le puse azúcar estaba frío.</i> The coffee that I put sugar in was cold.	The relative pronoun <i>el que / el cual</i> refers to <i>el café</i> and is the indirect object of <i>puse</i> , accompanied by the preposition <b>a</b> which marks the indirect object.
The object of a preposition	Human	<i>quien(es) el/la/los/las que/cual(es)</i>	<i>No sé cómo se llama la mujer con la cual / con que / con quien hablé ayer.</i> I don't know the name of the woman with whom I spoke yesterday	The relative pronoun <i>la cual / que / quien</i> refers to <i>la mujer</i> and is the object of the preposition <i>con</i> ( <i>hablar</i> requires the use of the preposition).
	Non-human	<i>que</i> (only with prepositions <i>a, de, en, con</i> ) <i>el/la/los/las que/cual(es)</i> (with all prepositions)	<i>La computadora con que / con la que / con la cual teletrabajo todos los días es nueva.</i> The computer with which I telework every day is new.	The relative pronoun <i>que / la que / la cual</i> refers to <i>la computadora</i> and is the object of the preposition <i>con</i> .

