**Composing with Relative Clauses in Latin**

Follow these steps to help you write a sentence using a Relative in Latin:

* Write the sentence in English first, using simple grammar.
* Bracket off the independent clause and the relative clause, then treat them as two separate parts, as follows.

**Part I: Compose the independent clause first:**

1. Find the subject of the sentence: Could be a noun OR a verb
   1. NOUN SUBJECT: Write this subject in the **Nominative** case. Check your noun declining charts for the correct noun form. Example: The **man** loves the woman. **“The man”** is the subject of the sentence and would need to be in the Nominative case.
      1. Write the subject as the first word in your composed sentence.
   2. VERB SUBJECT: Check your verb conjugating charts for correct verb form. Example: **We will love** the woman. The pronoun “we” is represented in Latin by the personal ending, -mus in the verb.Therefore, the verb is the subject of the sentence. Note: A 1ST OR 2ND person verb is ALWAYS the subject of the sentence.
      1. Write the verb as the last word in your composed sentence.
2. Write the verb in Latin, if you haven’t done so already. Check your verb conjugating charts for correct verb form.
   1. If you have a NOUN SUBJECT, use 3rd singular or 3rd plural
   2. If you have a VERB SUBJECT, you already took care of the verb in Step 2.
      1. Write the verb as the last word in your composed sentence.
3. Any remaining words: Identify the function of remaining words (Possessor, Indirect Object, Prepositional Phrase, Adverb) and write those words in their correct cases.
   1. Possessor = Genitive case will follow the word it possesses.
   2. Indirect Object = Dative case will be written closer to the verb.
   3. Prepositional Phrase = Accusative or Ablative case following a preposition will need to be written where you’d put it in English.
   4. Adverbs will be written right before the verb in the sentence.
   5. If it’s a passive voice sentence and contains an Ablative of Agent, then:
      1. Identify it and write it in its correct Ablative case and number. Remember the Ablative of Agent = a/ab + Person in the Ablative case.
4. Identify your Antecedent. This is the word which the relative clause will describe. Identify it’s gender and number.

**Part II: Compose the Relative Clause**

1. Identify your relative pronoun and its function (Subject, Possessor, Indirect Object, Direct Object, Prepositional Phrase). Then, write it in Latin in its corresponding Latin case.
   1. Match your relative pronoun to the same gender and number of its independent clause antecedent (i.e. the noun that it’s referencing)
   2. Write your relative pronoun next to its antecedent.
2. Verb of the relative clause: write the verb in its correct tense, voice, person, and number.
   1. The verb should be the last word in your relative clause
3. Any remaining words: Identify the function of remaining words (Possessor, Indirect Object, Prepositional Phrase, Adverb) and write those words in their correct cases.
   1. Possessor = Genitive case will follow the word it possesses.
   2. Indirect Object = Dative case will be written closer to the verb.
   3. Prepositional Phrase = Accusative or Ablative case following a preposition will need to be written where you’d put it in English.
   4. Adverbs will be written right before the verb in the sentence.
   5. If it’s a passive voice sentence and contains an Ablative of Agent, then:
      1. Identify it and write it in its correct Ablative case and number. Remember the Ablative of Agent = a/ab + Person in the Ablative case.
4. Separate the relative clause with commas.

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| **Example Sentences** | **relative clause**  antecedent |
| The man is loved by the woman, **who protects the children**. | Vir a femina, **quae liberos servat**, amatur. |
| The boys and girls were being given balls, **which were being thrown by the teachers**. | Pueri et puellae pilis, **quae a magistris iaciebantur**, dabantur. |
| We will seize quickly the enemy, **who is at our gates.** | Hostes, **qui ad portas nostras sunt**, celeriter capiemus. |

*Nota Bene: Notice how the main verb of the independent clause is located at the end of the entire complex sentence.*

Sentence structure in Latin is flexible, but you can follow a general layout:

Subject=> indirect object => direct object=> prepositional phrase(s) =>adverb=>main verb

* Every sentence will contain a subject and a verb, but not necessarily all of the other cases/grammar forms.
* Put adjectives after the noun, except if it is a noun of size or quantity.
* Genitives follow the noun they possess/describe.