

Stage 15 Grammar notes (I) - relative clauses

Copy the following pair of sentences:

· ancilla urnam portabat.

· The slave girl was carrying the jug.

· ancilla, quae post Salvium ambulabat, urnam portabat.

· The slave girl, who was walking behind Salvius, was carrying the jug.

The group of words in red is known as a relative clause which is introduced by a relative pronoun. A relative clause is a phrase used to describe a noun.

For example:

· [vilicus,] qui cum praecursoribus equitabat, ad Salvium rediit.

· The [farm manager,] who was riding with the forerunners, returned to Salvius.

· prope iuvenes erat [plaustrum,] quod totam viam clauderat.

· near the young men was a [wagon,] which was blocking the whole road.

In the first example, the relative clause describes the farm manager.

In the second example, the relative clause describes the wagon.

For the following examples:

- write the Latin
 - translate
 - underline the noun being described
 - [bracket the relative clause]
- } in the Latin

1. rex, qui sceptrum tenebat, in auro sedebat.
2. vinum, quod Salvius bibebat, erat optimum.
3. ancillae, quae dominum timebant, e villa festinauerunt.
4. canis, quem Bregans ducebat, ferocissimus erat.
5. in via erant multi Britanni, qui Romanos impediabant.
6. cena, quam Volubilis parabat, erat splendida.

Now, write and answer the following questions:

1. What is another meaning of the word "quod" and how do you tell the difference?
2. Look up the meaning of the word "antecedent" and explain how it connects with relative clauses.
3. If relative pronouns all mean "who" or "which", why are there so many different forms of the same word?

In your books: go to page 199. Copy the relative pronoun chart.