

Relative Pronouns in the Genitive

The relative pronoun *whose* is roughly equivalent to a possessive adjective such as *his, her, their, its*. In German, there are four relative pronouns equivalent to the English *whose*.

	dessen (masc)		deren (fem)		dessen (neut)		deren (plur)	
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Remember that the gender of the relative pronoun matches the gender of its antecedent.

Die Mitglieder mögen sehr die neue Leiterin, deren Fleiß der Einrichtung schon viel geholfen hat.

(The members very much like the new leader whose industriousness has already greatly helped the organization.)

The antecedent *Leiterin* is feminine, consequently the relative pronoun *deren* must also be feminine.

Übungen

Re-write each of the following pairs of sentences to create a single sentence using a relative pronoun in the genitive. Render the new sentence into German.

Example:

I don't like the woman. Her car is parked in front of my house.

→ *I don't like the woman whose car is parked in front of my house.*

→ *Ich mag die Frau nicht, deren Auto vor meinem Haus steht.*

1.

We are going to Hamburg with the neighbors. Their son lives there.

2.

Students will receive a bad grade. Their work is turned in late.

3.

I'm sending a letter to the man. His wife is in the hospital.

4.

Do you know the girl? I found her book.

5.

Some friends are flying to Europe with me. Their parents recommended a visit to Dresden.

Possible Solutions:

1. Wir fahren nach Hamburg mit den Nachbarn, deren Sohn dort wohnt.
2. Studenten, deren Arbeit spät eingereicht wird, werden eine schlechte Note bekommen.
3. Dem Mann, dessen Frau im Krankenhaus liegt, schicke ich einen Brief.
4. Kennst du das Mädchen, dessen Buch ich gefunden habe?
5. Einige Freunde, deren Eltern eine Reise nach Dresden empfohlen haben, fliegen mit mir nach Europa.