

## "dont" (6.2)

- *Dont* is used to replace the preposition *de* + noun.
- Verbs that commonly use *de* + noun are: *parler de* ("to talk about" as opposed to "to talk to": *parler à*), *avoir besoin de*, *avoir envie de*, *avoir peur de*, *se servir de* (to use), *se souvenir de*, *rêver de*,...
- Do not mix up verb + *de* + noun with verb + *de* + infinitive (8.4). Do not mix up the preposition *de/d'* with the partitive article: *du, de la, de l', de...* (5.1).
- *Dont* is also used with the possessive *de* ('s in English). The possessive *dont* is translated by "whose."
- The difficulty with *dont* is that you cannot see the preposition *de* anymore (since it has been replaced by *dont*). So you need to know/remember whether the verb uses *de* or not in the context given. To figure it out, try to reform the 2 original sentences.

ex: *C'est le livre \_\_\_\_ je me sers.* (It's the book \_\_\_\_ I use)  
The original 2 sentences were:  
*C'est un livre. Je me sers de ce livre. NOT ~~Je me sers ce livre.~~*  
→ *C'est le livre dont je me sers.*

Examples: a = translated into common/oral English    b = translated into very proper/formal English.

1. *C'est le journaliste dont je connais le frère.*    That's the reporter whose brother I know.
2. *L'ordinateur dont il se sert est très vieux.*    The computer he uses is very old.
3. *C'est l'homme dont j'ai parlé.*
  - a. It's the man (that) I talked about.
  - b. It's the man about whom I talked.
4. *Le climat dont nous parlons est très sec.*
  - a. The climate (that) we are talking about is very dry.
  - b. The climate about which we are talking is very dry.
5. *Regarde la voiture dont il rêve.*
  - a. Look at the car (that) he dreams about.
  - b. Look at the car about which he dreams.