The usage of ‘*che*’

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1.0 Proposizione relativa

... noun + che + verb ...

The sentence ‘che + verb ...’ is called ‘*proposizione relativa*‘ and ‘che’ is called ‘*pronome relavito*’. Another similar case of sentence is the ‘*incidentale*’: ... noun, *che + verb ...,* ... . The rules for this case are the same ones as for the ‘proposizione relativa’.

The word ‘che’ translates the english words ‘that’, ‘who’, ‘whom’ and ‘which’. In italian we do not make any distinctions between the use of ‘che’ as a subject or as an object and we do not distinguish when the ‘noun’ is related to a human being or not.

1.1 Examples

- Ho trovato il libro che avevi perso.

  I’ve found the book that you have lost
- La mela, che hai comperato, non è buona.

  The apple, which you have bought, is not good.
- Carlo e Valeria, che sono partiti ieri in treno, arriveranno oggi alla stazione.

  Carlo and Valeria, who have leaved yesterday by train, are going to arrive today at the railway station.
- Marco, che credevamo partito, è ancora a casa.

  Marco, whom we believed was gone, is still at home.

2.0 Proposizione interrogativa

2.1 Aggettivo interrogativo

Che + noun ... ?

In this case ‘che’ is called ‘*aggettivo interrogativo*’ and you can translate it with ‘what’ or ‘which’.

2.1.1 Examples

- Che libro vuoi? Which book do you want?
- Che ore sono? What time is it?

2.2 Pronome interrogativo

You can form two kinds of interrogation, but ‘che’ is always translated in ‘what’. Sometimes you can read or hear the expression ‘*che cosa*’. It has exactly the same meaning of ‘che’ when we are making these two kinds of interrogation.

1. proposizione diretta (you are aksing someone about something)

   Che + verb ... ?

2. proposizione indiretta

   ... verb + che + verb ...

2.2.1 Examples

- Che cos’è? What is this?
- Che guardi? What do you look at?
- Non so che dire. I don’t know what to say.
- Non mi ricordo che cos’ho preso. I don’t remember what I’ve taken.

3.0 Conjunction

We are going to list all the different case of use of ‘che’ as a conjunction. For each case we write the translation and we make one or two examples of the case.

1. *dichiarativa*: that. It is optional in english but *not* in italian.

   ho visto che c’è bel tempo (I’ve seen the weather is good)

   mi sembra che sia una bella idea (it sounds like a good idea)

2. *consecutiva, causale, finale*: that

   fa così freddo che non si può uscire (it’s so cold that we can’t go outside)

   bada che non cada (be careful that it doesn’t fall down)

3. *comparativa*: than

   sono più belle che buone (they are more butiful than good)

4. *temporale*: when

   lo vidi che era già partito (he had already left when I saw him)

5. *eccettuativa*: only, but

   non mi rimane che cercarlo (I have only to look for it)

   non hai che dirmelo (you have but to tell me)

6. *imperativa*: that

   che si parta finalmente! (finally let’s go!)

   che tutto sia finito per domani! (mind that everything will be set for tomorrow!)

7. *desideratva*:
   che il Ciel t'aiuti! (God help you!)
8. other cases:
   che sia uscito? (could he have gone out?)
   pagato che ebbi il conto (after paying the bill)