

French Grammar Express: The Relative Pronoun 'DONT'

Some useful verbs followed by **de** [duh]

avoir besoin [ahwar-buhzwɛ̃]	} de	→ to need
avoir envie [ahwar-ãvee]		→ to feel like
avoir honte [ahwar-õt]		→ to be ashamed of
dépendre [dɛ̃pãdr]		→ to depend on
douter [doot]		→ to doubt
être fier [ehtr-fee-ehr]		→ to be proud of
parler [pahrl]		→ to speak about
se moquer [suhmohk]		→ to make fun of
se souvenir [suhsoovuhneer]		→ to remember
rêver [rehv]		→ to dream of, about
manquer [mãk]		→ to lack, miss
s'occuper [sohk ɔ̃p]		→ to look after
prendre soin [prãdr-swɛ̃]		→ to take care of

J'ai besoin de sucre.
I need sugar.

Il parle de son travail.
He speaks about his job.

Je m'occupe de ce projet.
I'm looking after this project.

The preposition interrupts the direct route. The object is indirect.

de + le = du
de + la = de la
de + les = des
de + l' = de l'

This is the book **about which** she spoke ~~about the book~~,
Indirect object

C'est le livre **dont** elle a parlé ~~du livre~~.
Indirect object

→ Use **dont** [dõ] to replace the indirect object.

In French the relative pronoun cannot be left out.

The book I told you about.

Le livre **dont** je t'ai parlé.