

Test your knowledge of who, whom

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A pair of words that seems to cause many people difficulty is *who* and *whom*. Today we will consider how to use those words.

Who is in the nominative case and is used as the subject of a verb or as a predicate nominative. Other pronouns used the same way are *I*, *we*, *you*, *he*, *she*, *it* and *they*.

Whom is in the objective case and is used as an indirect object, as the object of a verb, or as the object of a preposition. Other pronouns having the same case are *me*, *us*, *you*, *him*, *her*, *it* and *them*. Note that the pronouns *it* and *you* are the same for both cases.

The words *whoever* and *whomever* follow the same rules as *who* and *whom*. All four of these words are used to introduce relative or subordinate clauses and as interrogative pronouns.

The following steps might help in making the correct word choice:

1. If the word is introducing a relative clause, be sure to work only with that subordinate clause.
2. Omit any expressions such as *I think* or *you know* if the thought is complete without them.
3. Arrange the subordinate clause in subject-verb order.
4. Substitute *he* or *him* for the relative pronoun. If *he* makes sense, use *who*; if *him* makes sense, use *whom*.

Another problem occurs when the preposition and its object are separated in a sentence: (Who, Whom) will you vote for? In subject-verb order this would be: You will vote for *whom*. *Whom* is the object of the preposition *for*.

Choose the correct form from the words in the parentheses in the following sentences.

1. (Who, Whom) so you want to speak to?
2. If I had known (who, whom) that was, I would have spoken to him.
3. Next month's speaker will be (whoever, whomever) the committee chooses.
4. Everyone (who, whom) received an invitation should plan to attend.
5. He is a person (who, whom), I think, we should honor.
6. (Who, Whom) did you meet at the mall?
7. There are several people (who, whom) I believe should be included.
8. (Who, Whom) do you think will be elected?
9. (Whoever, Whomever) wants to apply for the job should be here at noon.
10. The person for (who, whom) this package was intended does not live here.
11. (Who, Whom) will you accompany to the meeting this afternoon?
12. We did not know (who, whom) the land belonged to.
13. (Who, Whom) do you think we took with us on our vacation?
14. (Who, Whom) should be notified concerning the problem?
15. I can work with (whoever, whomever) you decide to select.
16. (Who, Whom) do you have business with at city hall?
17. (Who, Whom) did you say this letter was for?
18. He is an author (who, whom), you know, has written three books.
19. He is a man (who, whom) I know well.
20. (Whoever, Whomever) is hired by the company will be assigned to another location.

The correct answers are as follows: 1. whom; 2. who; 3. whomever; 4. who; 5. whom; 6. whom; 7. who; 8. who; 9. whoever; 10. whom; 11. whom; 12. whom; 13. whom; 14. who; 15. whomever; 16. whom; 17. whom; 18. who; 19. whom; and 20. whoever.

Take of 5 points for each incorrect answer. The grading scale is 90-100, A; 80-89, B; 70-79, C; 60-69, D; below 60, F.

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