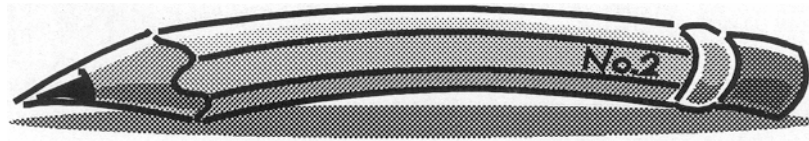


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GRAMMAR PRACTICE

Who, Whom, and Whose

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Who, whom, and whose are pronouns and therefore have specific cases that dictate where each can be used in a sentence. When trying to determine which pronoun to use, you must first determine if the pronoun is acting as a subject, an object, or an indicator of possession. When trying to decide what role a pronoun is playing, it is often helpful to think of other pronouns that could be substituted for the one in question.

Who is a pronoun in the subjective case and must be used only as the subject of a verb.

Who went to the movies last weekend?

We use “*Who*” because the pronoun acts as the subject for the verb “*went*.”

In this instance, *who* could be replaced by another pronoun in the subjective case, such as *he, she, we, I, you*, etc. For example, you could respond to this question by saying, “*We* went to the movies last weekend.”

Who does not have to be the subject of the entire sentence, though, and is often the subject of a clause instead.

The woman who owns the shop works in the morning.

In this sentence, the subject is *woman* and the verb going along with this subject is *works*. The clause *who owns the shop* is inserted between the subject and the verb. In this clause, *who* serves as a subject for the verb *owns* and is therefore correctly placed in the subjective case.

Whom is a pronoun in the objective case and must be used as the object of verbs or prepositions.

For whom are you looking?

We use “*whom*” because the pronoun acts as the object of the preposition “*For*.”

In this instance, *whom* could be replaced by another pronoun in the objective case, such as *him, her, us, me, you*, etc. For example, you could respond to this question by saying, “I am looking for *him*.”

Whose is a pronoun in the possessive case and must be used to indicate possession of an object.

Whose book is this?

We use “*Whose*” because the pronoun is indicating that the book belongs to someone. As in the other instances, *whose* could be replaced by another pronoun in the possessive case, such as *his, her, our, my, your,* etc. For example, you could respond to this question by saying, “This is *her* book.”

PRACTICE EXERCISES

Complete the following sentences with *who, whom, or whose*.

1. The man _____ has two dogs usually goes to the park during the evening.
2. My mother, for _____ I baked a cake, had her birthday party yesterday.
3. My sister, _____ son is two, works at the hospital.
4. My friend, with _____ I live, wants a cat.
5. The people _____ live there have a boat.
6. That is the lady _____ sculpture I bought.
7. My grandma, _____ is an excellent cook, made dinner.
8. To _____ should I address the letter?
9. The students _____ read the book gave a nice presentation.
10. _____ jacket is on the floor?

Answers: 1. who, 2. whom, 3. whose, 4. whom, 5. who, 6. whose, 7. who, 8. whom, 9. who, 10. Whose.

Now try to write three sentences, using a different pronoun in each.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____