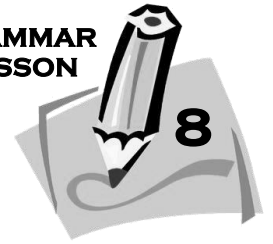


Who, Whom, Whose

GRAMMAR LESSON



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.

***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. Complete the following sentences with *who*, *whom*, or *whose*. (The exercises continue on the back side.)

Example: The man who has two dogs usually goes to the park during the evening.

1. My mother, for _____ I baked a cake, had her birthday party yesterday.
2. My sister, _____ son is two, works at the hospital.
3. My friend, with _____ I live, wants a cat.
4. The people _____ live there have a boat.
5. That is the lady _____ sculpture I bought.

6. My grandma, _____ is an excellent cook, made dinner.
7. To _____ should I address this letter?
8. The students _____ read the book gave a nice presentation.
9. _____ jacket is on the floor?
10. _____ wrote this book?
11. _____ are you going to recommend?
12. _____ dictionary is on the table?
13. It doesn't look as if this is the correct address. _____ did you ask for directions?
14. We have two extra tickets for the concert. _____ wants to go with us?
15. It wasn't me! I have no idea _____ left the oven on.
16. _____ car is parked in the handicapped parking space?
17. Melanie couldn't remember the name of the student _____ science project won.
18. I know exactly _____ I'm going to support in the upcoming election.
19. She's the actress _____ he so vividly describes in his scandalous new book.
20. That's the professor _____ spent ten years living with the Pygmies in Central Africa.

Points: _____ / 20