

## Who, Whom, and Whose

**Who**—subject pronoun: Who threw the ball?

**Whom**—object pronoun: You threw the ball to whom?

**Whose**—possessive pronoun: Whose ball is this?

That's great but what does that mean?

Who and Whom relates to the unknown person's relationship to the verb.

- If you don't know the person DOING the action (like actually throwing the ball)—Who
- If you don't know the person RECEIVING the action (the person the ball is being thrown towards)—Whom

If it is a question of ownership—Whose

A possessive pronoun doesn't take an apostrophe ('). Like "its" (its ball) rather than "it's" (it is the ball).

A trick to remember Who or Whom:

- Whom is the same kind of pronoun as Him

Imagine replacing the word "who or whom" with "him"—does it still make sense?

- "Him threw the ball" —no
- "You threw the ball to him" —yes

You may need to rephrase some sentences to try this trick (if we know the object we usually write the sentence in Subject + Verb + Object order; however, if we don't know the object we will sometimes write the sentence in Object + Verb + Subject order).

- To whom did you address the letter?
  - Did you address the letter to him?
- Whom did you invite to the party?
  - Did you invite him to the party?
- Who addressed the letter?
  - Him addressed the letter.
- Who invited you to the party?
  - Him invited me to the party.

## Who, Whom, and Whose Worksheet

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?

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

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Who, Whom, and Whose Worksheet Answer Key

1. The man who has two dogs usually goes to the park during the evening.
2. My mother, for whom I baked a cake, had her birthday party yesterday.
3. My sister, whose son is two, works at the hospital.

4. My friend, with whom I live, wants a cat.
5. The people who live there have a boat.
6. That is the lady whose sculpture I bought.
7. My grandma, who is an excellent cook, made dinner.
8. To whom should I address the letter?
9. The students who read the book gave a nice presentation.
10. Whose jacket is on the floor?

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

1. Answers may vary.
2. Answers may vary.
3. Answers may vary.