

Using *Who* and *Whom*

Reteaching

The case of the pronoun *who* is determined by the function of the pronoun in the sentence. *Who* and *whom* can be used to ask questions and to introduce subordinate clauses.

Nominative	who, whoever
Objective	whom, whomever

Who is the nominative form of the pronoun. In questions, *who* is used as a subject or as a predicate pronoun. *Whom* is the objective form. In questions, *whom* is used as a direct or as an indirect object of a verb or as the object of a preposition.

- Subject** In *A Tale of Two Cities*, who sat below the guillotine?
Object Of all the characters, whom did you like best?

Use *who* when the pronoun is the subject of a subordinate clause. Use *whom* when the pronoun is an object in a subordinate clause.

- Subject of clause** It was Madame Defarge who sat below the guillotine.
Object in clause The character whom we all like best is Sydney Carton.

Using *Who* and *Whom* Correctly

Choose the correct pronoun to complete each of the following sentences.

- (Who, Whom) is the most memorable character from literature?
- One memorable character, at least the one (who, whom) I remember most easily, is Roderick in Edgar Allan Poe's "The Masque of the Red Death."
- (Who, Whom) was his sister?
- They were the people (whom, who) hosted the bizarre party in their mansion.
- Perhaps my favorite character is Fagin, (who, whom) ran a ring of street urchins in Charles Dickens's *Oliver Twist*.
- By (who, whom) was young Oliver finally rescued from Fagin's clutches?
- Miss Havisham of *Great Expectations* is the old lady (who, whom) lives in the past.
- For (who, whom) did the lonely Miss Havisham pine after he left her at the altar?
- Some people might choose Captain Ahab, (who, whom) lost his leg to the whale Moby Dick.
- (Who, Whom) was the narrator in the story of *Moby Dick*?
- I have to thank (whoever, whomever) recommended that I read *To Kill a Mockingbird*.
- In that book, I met a character (who, whom) I greatly admired—Atticus Finch.
- Atticus was a lawyer (who, whom) was defending an African-American man (who, whom) had been unfairly accused of committing a crime.
- (Who, Whom) else would have had enough courage to do the right thing?
- There is a list of good books for summer reading in the library, available to (whomever, whoever) wants it.

Using *Who* and *Whom***More Practice****A. Identifying the Function of *Who* and *Whom***

In the following sentences, identify the function of *who* or *whom*. If a sentence uses *who*, underline once the verb of which it is the subject. If a sentence uses *whom*, underline twice the verb or preposition of which it is an object.

EXAMPLES The detective discovered **who** had committed the series of robberies.

There is the man **whom** the authorities are seeking.

1. **Who** called you on the telephone?
2. **Whom** did the city council choose as the architects of the new city hall?
3. Do you remember **who** caught the touchdown pass in the final game?
4. The actor **whom** you are replacing is recovering nicely from his illness.
5. I bought the CD of the group **whom** I saw last Saturday.
6. We met an astronaut **who** had flown in the space shuttle.
7. **Who** remembers the words to this song?
8. From **whom** do I buy my ticket to the play?

B. Using *Who* and *Whom* Correctly

Choose the correct pronoun from those in parentheses in the following sentences.

1. William Shakespeare's plays provide us with characters (who, whom) touch audiences even today.
2. (Whom, Who) can forget the star-crossed lovers, Romeo and Juliet?
3. The feuding families (who, whom) kept them apart caused their deaths.
4. The character with (who, whom) I identify most is Hamlet.
5. This is a person (whom, who), like me, can never make up his mind.
6. (Who, Whom) did Hamlet's indecision and seeming madness harm the most?
7. (Who, Whom) did Macbeth kill in order to gain power?
8. Was it Macbeth or was it Lady Macbeth (whom, who) was more dangerous?
9. Julius Caesar, (whom, who) was ruler of Rome, was assassinated by his "friends."
10. In Shakespeare's play, Mark Antony is the character (who, whom) says, "I have come to bury Caesar, not to praise him."
11. In *King Lear*, Cordelia is the daughter (who, whom) her father accuses of ingratitude.
12. (Whom, Who) were Cordelia's sisters (who, whom) actually were guilty of treachery against their father?