

Who and Whom

1. The use of *who* (and *whoever*) or *whom* (and *whomever*) in a subordinate clause depends on how the pronoun functions in the clause.

Who is in the nominative case, and *whom* is in the objective case.

NOMINATIVE CASE The person who wrote this poem is a great writer. [*Who* is the subject of the verb *wrote* in the clause *who wrote this poem*.]

OBJECTIVE CASE Did you see whom Mr. Burns selected? [*Whom* is the direct object of the verb *selected* in the clause *whom Mr. Burns selected*.]

EXERCISE A Underline the subordinate clause in each sentence. Then, above *who* or *whoever*, or *whom* or *whomever*, write *S* if the word is the subject of the clause, *PN* if it is the predicate nominative, *DO* if it is the direct object, or *OP* if it is the object of a preposition.

- Examples**
- Do you know ^{PN} who the writer is?
 - The man ^{OP} to whom I was speaking is a great musician.
 - I don't know ^{OP} to whom I should give my extra ticket.
 - Wasn't Charles Dickens the author ^S who wrote *Oliver Twist*?
 - I've just figured out ^{PN} who the person in the gorilla costume is. (who)
 - Mario is the student ^{DO} whom the committee selected for the award. (whom)
 - Billie Holiday, ^{DO} whom my parents greatly admire, was a famous singer. (whom)
 - Everyone wondered ^{PN} who the new cheerleader would be. (who)
 - We will invite ^{DO} whomever Jane wants.
 - I wonder ^S who gave the anonymous donation to the school.
 - Dad will lend the car to ^S whoever will wash it this weekend.
 - I saw a car in my driveway, and wondered ^S who was there.

EXERCISE B Underline the correct pronoun in parentheses in each sentence.

Example 1. Please give my compliments to whoever (*whoever, whomever*) made the chili.

- Was Henry Ford II the man who (*who, whom*) designed the ill-fated Edsel?
- The counselor whom (*who, whom*) she consulted gave her good advice. (whom)
- William Faulkner was a novelist who (*who, whom*) won the Nobel Prize.
- Ms. Okimi would not tell us whom (*who, whom*) she preferred as a candidate. (whom)
- Emily Dickinson, for whom (*who, whom*) we named this park, was a poet.

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Who and Whom

Reteaching

The case of the pronoun *who* is determined by the pronoun's function in the sentence.

Nominative	who, whoever
Objective	whom, whomever
Possessive	whose, whosever

Who and *whom* can be used to ask questions and to introduce subordinate clauses.

In a question, *who* is used as subject or predicate pronoun. The objective pronoun *whom* is used as a direct or indirect object of a verb or as the object of a preposition.

- Subject** Who will be the new principal?
Indirect object Whom did you tell about the rumor?
Object (of preposition) From whom did you hear the news?

When deciding whether to use *who* or *whom* in a subordinate clause, consider only how the pronoun functions in the clause. If it is the subject, use *who*. If the pronoun is an object in the subordinate clause, use *whom*.

- Subject of clause** The person who replaces Ms. Theo has to be good.
Object in clause The students whom Ms. Theo supervised will miss her.

Using *Who* and *Whom* Correctly

In each sentence, underline the correct pronoun form. If the pronoun choice is in a subordinate clause, first draw brackets [] around the clause, and then mark the right choice.

EXAMPLE When will we know [who, whom] will get the job?

- Everyone in school wonders who our new principal will be.
- No one knows who actually chooses the person for the job.
- We certainly hope that he or she will give the job to whoever seems best qualified.
- Our present principal, whom everyone likes and respects, has held the position for 15 years.
- Who has Ms. Theo explained her reasons for leaving?
- Mr. Capp, who is the assistant principal, says that Ms. Theo is retiring.
- From whom did he hear that?
- Mr. Capp didn't say from whom he heard his information.
- Could the person who replaces Ms. Theo be someone at school now?
- Probably it can be anyone who is qualified, perhaps even Mr. Capp.
- Whom could we ask for more information?
- My mother knows someone whom is on the school board.
- Her friend might not give information to just anyone who asks.

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CHAPTER 6

Pronouns in Incomplete Constructions

- 17k.** A pronoun following *than* or *as* in an incomplete construction should be in the same case as it would be if the construction were completed.

EXAMPLES Do you call Laura more than me? [Meaning: Do you call Laura more than *you call me*?]

Do you call Laura more than I? [Meaning: Do you call Laura more than *I call Laura*?]

EXERCISE The following sentences are incomplete constructions. On the lines provided, rewrite each sentence including the missing part of the construction. Use the pronoun in parentheses that is in the case specified.

Example 1. Sherri served the children before (*I, me*). (objective) Sherri served the children before she served me.

- Todd runs with the dog more than (*I, me*). (nominative) then I run with the dog.
- The judges liked Meg's routine less than (*I, mine*). (possessive) than they liked mine.
- I waited on the elderly customer before (*she, her*). (objective) before I waited on her.
- We play more tournaments than (*they, them*). (nominative) then they play.
- I love chocolate more than (*your, you*). (nominative) than you do.
- The car pool picked up RayAnn before (*he, him*). (objective) before they picked up him.
- Kiki lives nearer the school than (*we, us*). (nominative) than we do.
- Is Dan's pony in as many shows as (*her, hers*)? (possessive) as hers is?
- You can wash our car after (*them, theirs*). (possessive) after you wash theirs.
- I value friendship as much as (*he, him*). (nominative) as much as he does/values friendship.

Other Pronoun Problems

Reteaching

Pronouns may be used with an appositive, in an appositive, or in a comparison.
Pronouns can also be used reflexively or intensively.

Appositives An **appositive** is a noun or pronoun that follows another noun or pronoun to identify or explain it. The pronouns *we* and *us* are often followed by appositives. To determine whether to use *we* or *us*, drop the appositive from the sentence and determine whether the pronoun is a subject or an object.

We hikers scheduled a ten-mile hike. (We scheduled a ten-mile hike.)

The park rangers encouraged us hikers. (The park rangers encouraged us.)

A pronoun used in an appositive is in the same case as the noun to which it refers.

The hike leaders, Kurt and she, planned the route. (*Leaders* is the subject of *planned*; use the nominative case.)

Club members followed the hike leaders, Kurt and her. (*Leaders* is the object of *asked*; use the objective case.)

Comparisons A comparison can be made using *than* or *as* to begin a clause. When words are left out of such a clause, the clause is said to be **elliptical**. To determine the correct pronoun to use in an elliptical clause, mentally fill in the unstated words.

My sister likes hiking more than I. (more than I like hiking)

My sister likes hiking more than me. (more than she likes me)

Reflexive and Intensive Pronouns Pronouns ending in *-self* or *-selves* can be used reflexively or intensively. Reflexive and intensive pronouns may never be used alone; they must refer to, or intensify, an antecedent in the same sentence.

I myself suggested hiking past Strawberry Lake. (used as intensive pronoun)

I saw myself in the water of Strawberry Lake. (used as reflexive pronoun)

A. Choosing the Correct Pronoun

In each sentence, underline the correct pronoun form.

- We (Us) hikers met at dawn.
- Ben walked faster than (I) me. (walked)
- The bear chased the two hikers, Lucinda and (he) him, when they approached the cub.
- The bees stung Barbara fewer times than (I) me. (The bees stung)
- A sudden rainstorm gave (we) us hikers a slippery path.
- The slowest walkers, Briana and (she) her, arrived half an hour after the rest of us.
- We (Us) survivors decided we'd had a good time.

B. Choosing the Correct Pronoun

In each set, underline the correct sentence.

- Kendra asked myself a question. / Kendra asked me a question.
- I myself will help you. / Myself will help you.
- Kelvin asked himself a question. / Kelvin' asked him, Kelvin, a question.
- Did herself break Tina's lens? / Did Tina herself break her lens?