

# Pronouns IV~ Who, Whom, Whoever

## Pronoun Usage IV: Who, Whom, Whoever, Whomever

### Pre-Test

A score of 90% or better on this pre-test indicates a mastery of the skills for which the test has been designed.

**DIRECTIONS:** In the blanks provided, write the correct form of the pronoun from the words provided in parentheses.

**EXAMPLES:** whom 1. Heathcliff is a character (who, whom) I dislike.

who 2. People (who, whom) ridicule others are often insecure.

whoever 3. Nancy will probably repeat this rumor to (whoever, whomever) will listen to her.

whomever 4. My father seems to resent (whoever, whomever) I invite to our house.

\_\_\_\_\_ 1. The young man (who, whom) you spoke to is attractive and charming.

\_\_\_\_\_ 2. People (who, whom) are unfamiliar with computers are seldom believers in what computers can do.

\_\_\_\_\_ 3. To (who, whom) did you send the letter?

\_\_\_\_\_ 4. Jill offered her lecture notes to (whoever, whomever) wanted them.

\_\_\_\_\_ 5. (Who, Whom) have you invited to the party?

\_\_\_\_\_ 6. Mr. Crenshaw is the man (who, whom) I believe is the best candidate for the office.

\_\_\_\_\_ 7. Segovia, (who, whom) is my favorite musician, is a master classical guitarist.

- \_\_\_\_\_8. Artifacts from ancient civilizations reveal that cliff dwellers were people (who, whom) adapted to their environment.
- \_\_\_\_\_9. Good fortune comes to (whoever, whomever) makes wise choices.
- \_\_\_\_\_10. Jay was willing to defend anyone (who, whom) he admired.
- \_\_\_\_\_11. When animals are frightened, they often attack (whoever, whomever) approaches them.
- \_\_\_\_\_12. Dr. Jasper directs his sarcasm at (whoever, whomever) he dislikes.
- \_\_\_\_\_13. My father is a man (who, whom) I admire for his honesty.
- \_\_\_\_\_14. (Who, Whom) did you recommend for the job?
- \_\_\_\_\_15. (Who, Whom) submitted the best suggestion?
- \_\_\_\_\_16. Judy is an intelligent young women (who, whom) has a sense of humor.
- \_\_\_\_\_17. Anyone (who, whom) participates in the marathon is to be admired.
- \_\_\_\_\_18. Jenny Lewis, (who, whom) Mr. Henshaw hired as his private secretary, graduated from College of the Redwoods.
- \_\_\_\_\_19. The winner of the debate will be the person (who, whom) the judges consider to be the most persuasive.
- \_\_\_\_\_20. A truly talented actress can be (whoever, whomever) she chooses to be in any given situation.

**Answers are on the last page**

## Who, Whom, Whoever, Whomever

The Pronouns who, whoever, whom, whomever, and whose are treated as a separate category of pronouns in the LAC Learning Packages. These pronouns are listed here in their pronoun cases:

Nominative Case (used for subjects and complements)	Objective Case (used for objects)	Possessive Case (used to show possession or ownership)
Who Whoever	Whom Whomever	Whose

The pronoun case to be used is determined by the function of the word in the sentence. Consider the following examples:

(Who, Whom) asked <sub>v</sub> the question <sub>o</sub>?

The sentence needs a subject; therefore, the pronoun who is the correct choice.

(Who, Whom) did <sub>v</sub> you <sub>s</sub> call <sub>v</sub>?

The sentence has a subject <sub>s</sub> and a verb <sub>v</sub>. To determine the correct pronoun choice, revise the sentence to make it a statement rather than a question.

You <sub>s</sub> did call <sub>v</sub> (who, whom) <sub>o</sub>.

The correct choice of pronoun is whom.

To <sub>p</sub> (who, whom) was <sub>v</sub> the package <sub>s</sub> sent <sub>v</sub>?

Pronouns following prepositions <sub>p</sub> are usually in the objective case. (Exceptions to this rule apply to certain noun clauses; these exceptions will be illustrated in a later section of this package.) Again, the question may be revised to form a statement.

The package <sub>s</sub> was sent <sub>v</sub> to <sub>p</sub> (who, whom) <sub>o</sub>.

The correct choice of pronoun is whom

To determine the correct choice of the pronouns whoever and whomever use the same process of identifying subjects *s*, verbs *v* and objects *o* in the sentence. Consider the following examples:

Dr. Jasper *s* directs *v* his sarcasm *o* at *p* (whomever, whoever) he *s* dislikes *v*.

Just as one word can be the object of the preposition, a whole clause (which has its own subject, its own verb, and sometimes its own object) can also be an object of a preposition *op*. Again consider the example cited above:

Dr. Jasper *s* directs *v* his sarcasm *o* at *p* [whomever he dislikes *op*].

Review the next example:

Jill *s* offered *v* her lecture notes *o* to *p* (whoever, whomever) wanted *v* them *o*.

Analyze the preposition phrase in the example:

to *p* [whomever wanted them *op*].

In both examples, noun clauses are used as object of the prepositions.

The possessive pronoun whose is sometimes confused with the contraction who's, which means who is. Take care to make the distinction between these two pronoun forms.

Examples:

The woman whose coat was left here has returned to claim it.

Johnny, who's always eager to perform before an audience, suddenly lost his confidence when he was asked to speak in our class.

# Pronoun Usage IV: Who, Whom, Whoever, Whomever

## Post-Test

A score of 90% or better on this post-test indicates mastery of the skills for which the test has been designed.

DIRECTIONS: In the blanks provided, write the correct form of the pronoun from the words provided in parentheses.

EXAMPLES:

whoever a. Aunt Martha claimed that she would will her money to (whoever, whomever) would care for her to her last years.

whom b. To (who, whom) did you address the letter?

who c. (Who, Whom) inquired about me?

whomever d. You may select (whoever, whomever) you want as your alternate.

\_\_\_\_\_ 1. The person (who, whom) designed the building will speak at our committee meeting this week.

\_\_\_\_\_ 2. You may return these materials to (whoever, whomever) is in the office.

\_\_\_\_\_ 3. To (who, whom) do you wish to speak?

\_\_\_\_\_ 4. My uncle, (who, whom) is an avid reader, dislikes modern novels.

\_\_\_\_\_ 5. The women (who, whom) you asked about is not here today.

\_\_\_\_\_ 6. Beth is a young women (who, whom) finds fault in everyone.

\_\_\_\_\_ 7. The results of the experiment might be useful to (whoever, whomever) continues research in this discipline.

\_\_\_\_\_ 8. Our union members agreed to support (whoever, whomever) our president selected to represent us.

- \_\_\_\_\_9. Dr. Grayson is a woman (who, whom) her patients trust and admire.
- \_\_\_\_\_10. Cynthia and Robert are students (who, whom) will probably win top honors this year.

**Answers on the last page**

**Pre-Test**

1. Whom
2. Who
3. Whom
4. Whoever
5. Whom

6. Who
7. Who
8. Who
9. Whoever
10. Whom

11. Whoever
12. Whomever
13. Whom
14. Whom
15. Who

16. Who
17. Who
18. Whom
19. Whom
20. Whomever

**Post-Test**

1. Who
2. Whoever
3. Whom
4. Who
5. Whom

6. Who
7. Whoever
8. Whomever
9. Whom
10. Who