

# Whose and who's for asking questions

## Introduction



**Whose** wallet is this?



**Who's** this?

## Definition

**Whose** is a pronoun that we can use to ask questions.

**Who's** is a contraction of 'who is' or 'who has' and we also use it to ask questions.

They are sometimes confused because they have the same pronunciation. - /hu:z/.

[Note that 'whose' is also a relative pronoun. For more information, see Relative Pronouns: whom, whose, where.]

## Construction

### Whose

| Construction                         | Examples   |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| 1. 'Whose' + 'to be' + object?       | <b>Whose</b> is this pen?<br><b>Whose</b> are those desks? |
| 2. 'Whose' + object + 'to be' + ...? | <b>Whose</b> pen is this?<br><b>Whose</b> desks are those? |

## Who's

| Construction            | Examples  |
|-------------------------|---|
| 1. 'Who's' + ...?       | <b>Who's</b> your boss? [who is]<br><br><b>Who's</b> hungry? [who is]                               |
| 1. 'Who's' + got + ...? | <b>Who's</b> got a red pen I can borrow? [who has]<br><br><b>Who's</b> got a pet at home? [who has] |

**Note that 'who's'** [who has] is also used in present perfect sentences.

## Uses

| Question word | Use                      | Examples  |
|---------------|--------------------------|---|
| Whose         | To ask about possession. | " <b>Whose</b> books are these on the table?"<br>"They belong to John."<br><br>" <b>Whose</b> turn is it to take the minutes?"<br>"Mine."   |
| Who's         | To ask about people.     | " <b>Who's</b> going to the meeting?"<br>"The team leaders are."<br><br>" <b>Who's</b> Tom's manager?"<br>"Sarah is."<br><br>" <b>Who's</b> got a pool?"<br>"I have, we can have the pool party at my place." |

## Examples