

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?	Whose is this pen? Whose are those desks?
2. 'Whose' + object + 'to be' + ...?	Whose pen is this? Whose desks are those?

Who's

Construction	Examples
1. 'Who's' + ...?	Who's your boss? [who is] Who's hungry? [who is]
1. 'Who's' + got + ...?	Who's got a red pen I can borrow? [who has] Who's 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.	" Whose books are these on the table?" "They belong to John." " Whose turn is it to take the minutes?" "Mine."
Who's	To ask about people.	" Who's going to the meeting?" "The team leaders are." " Who's Tom's manager?" "Sarah is." " Who's got a pool?" "I have, we can have the pool party at my place."

Examples