

Whom, whose, where

Introduction



I have a friend **whose** husband travels a lot.

Definition

Whom is a pronoun, **whose** can be a pronoun or a determiner and **where** is an adverb.

Construction

There are several different ways to construct sentences with these pronouns. Here are some examples: <?xml:namespace prefix = "o" ns = "urn:schemas-microsoft-com:office:office" />

These are the people **whom** I met at the conference.

This is my friend **whose** parents are Canadian.

My sister still lives in the town **where** we were born.

Uses

Whom is used to talk about people and is sometimes an alternative to **who** and **that**.

Whose refers to belonging and association and can be used with people or things.

Where is used to talk about places.

Whom

Note that this is pronounced /hu:m/.

We can use **whom** or **who** in this kind of sentence:

The client **whom/who** we met in London is coming to see us next week.

This is because 'The client' is the object of the verb 'met' and the subject of the verb 'is coming'.

In contrast, we cannot use **whom** in this sentence:

My sister **whom** lives in Paris is an architect. ❌
My sister **who** lives in Paris is an architect. ✅

Because 'My sister' is the subject of both the verb 'lives' and 'is'.

If there is any doubt, it is better to use **who** because it is much more common than **whom** - both spoken and written.

Whose

Note that this has the same pronunciation as 'who's' - /hu:z/.

We use **whose** in relative clauses. It replaces the **possessive adjectives** 'his', 'her', 'its' and 'their' and enables us to use one sentence instead of two/

Note that it can be used to refer to what 'belongs' to a person or a thing:

I have a friend. Her children are the same age as mine.
= I have a friend **whose** children are the same age as mine.

What's the name of the man **whose** car you borrowed?
I work for a company **whose** head office is in Lyon.

These sentences show the difference between **who** and **whose**:

I had lunch with a man **who** works in Lyon. [He works in Lyon.]
I met a man **whose** sister works in Lyon. [His sister works in Lyon.]

Where

We use **where** in defining relative clauses to avoid repeating the name of a place and so that we can use one sentence instead of two. It has the meaning of 'there' or 'in that place'. For example:

'Where' in relative clause	Meaning
The village where I was born is in the South of France.	The village is in the South of France. I was born there/in that village.
I want to live in a town where there are lots of shops, theatres and museums.	There are towns with lots of shops, theatres and museums. I want to live in this kind of town.

Examples



Is that the building **whose** roof was damaged?



We like relaxed, informal restaurants **where** we can get good food and wine at reasonable prices.



"Is this your first visit here?" "Yes, it is. But I have a friend **whose** sister works here."



There is someone **whom** I would like to bring into this team.



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