

Using **Who** and **Whom**

People sometimes confuse the pronouns *who* and *whom* when they write. *Who* is a subject form. It is used as a subject of a sentence or a clause.

Who made this mess?

I saw a performer *who* could do four back flips. [*Who* is the subject in the dependent clause *who could do four back flips*.]

Whom is an object form. It is used as the object of a preposition or as a direct object.

To *whom* did you send a letter?

Whom will you ask?

In the first example, *whom* is the object of the preposition *to*. In the second example, *whom* is a direct object.

- To understand why *whom* is used in the second sentence, change the word order so that the subject comes first. (*Whom* will you ask? becomes *You will ask whom?*) This makes it easier to see that *whom* is a direct object.

Directions How is the underlined word used? Write *subject*, *object of preposition*, or *direct object*.

- Who wants to learn gymnastics? _____
- She is a person for whom gymnastics is hard. _____
- Matt is the person who did a triple somersault. _____
- Whom did she help the most? _____
- Who won the Olympic medal last year? _____

Directions Underline *who* or *whom* to complete each sentence correctly.

- (Who, Whom) should we support?
- Work with Brenda, (who, whom) has taken gymnastics for years.
- To (who, whom) should we go for advice?
- (Who, Whom) remembers the order of events?
- The gymnast (who, whom) stumbled on the dismount still won a medal.