

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*.

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

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

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