

RELATIVE PRONOUNS

Grammar Tips

Whose is a possessive pronoun like **his, her and our**. We use **whose** to find out which person something belongs to. Do not confuse **whose** with **who's**.

Common Errors:

~~The man who car was stolen was very sad.~~ X

The man **whose** car was stolen was very sad. V

Who is a relative pronoun used after a noun or pronoun to show which group of people you are talking about. Use **who** when a sentence requires a subject pronoun (equivalent to **he** or **she**).

Common Errors:

~~Do you know the people **which** live next door?~~ X

Do you know the people **who** live next door? V

Where is often used as a relative pronoun. **Where** means **in** or **to** which place. In formal English, a phrase with **preposition + which** (**at which, in which**) can often be used instead.

Common Errors:

~~She wanted to get to Dublin, **where** her sister lived there.~~ X

She wanted to get to Dublin, **where** her sister lived. V

Whom is an object pronoun like **him, her and us**. We use **whom** to ask which person receives an action. **Whom** is often used with quantifiers and numbers: **many of whom, most of whom, one of whom, none of whom**

Common Errors:

~~I have many friends, **most of who** are musicians.~~ X

I have many friends, **most of whom** are musicians. V

What is a pronoun used to introduce a clause about something that is or was not known or not certain. In this case, **what** means something like **the thing(s) that**. **What** is not used as a relative pronoun.

Common Errors:

~~I don't know **which** to do next.~~ X

I don't know **what** to do next. V

Which is often used, after a comma in writing, to add more information about the thing, situation, or event you have just mentioned.

Common Errors:

~~One of the girls kept laughing, **what** annoyed Liz intensely.~~ X

One of the girls kept laughing, **which** annoyed Liz intensely. V

Why is used to ask or talk about the reason for something. We can also use **why** as a relative pronoun after the word **reason**. **That** can be used instead of **why** in informal English.

Common Errors:

~~There's no reason **for** we shouldn't go there.~~ X

There's no reason **why** we shouldn't go there. V

RELATIVE PRONOUNS

COMPLETE EACH SENTENCE WITH ONE OF THE WORDS GIVEN ABOVE.
whose | who | where | whom | what | which | why

- 1) I have many friends, most of _____ are artists.
- 2) The building, _____ was completed in 1767, is famous for its brickwork.
- 3) Sarah isn't the kind of woman _____ looks down on everyone.
- 4) Rembrandt was a painter _____ paintings are very expensive these days.
- 5) They aren't sure _____ to do next.
- 6) The restaurant _____ we had our dinner was rather expensive.
- 7) The reason _____ she can't meet you is that she's leaving today.
- 8) I know a man _____ works at Ryanair; he may be able to help you.
- 9) My British cousin, _____ you met last year, is coming to stay again.
- 10) The laptop _____ she lent me has been broken.
- 11) On the Monday, _____ was my birthday, we went to New York.
- 12) There's the story about the man _____ wife ran away from home.

WRITE TWO SENTENCES USING RELATIVE PRONOUNS.
