Unit 94

Relative clauses 3: whose/whom/where

A Whose

We use **whose** in relative clauses instead of **his/her/their**:

we helped some people – their car had broken down

→ We helped some people **whose car had broken down**.

We use **whose** mostly for people:

- A widow is a woman **whose husband is dead**. (**her** husband is dead)
- What's the name of the man **whose car you borrowed**? (you borrowed **his** car)
- I met someone **whose brother I went to school with**. (I went to school with **his/her** brother)

Compare **who** and **whose**:

- I met a man **who** knows you. (**he** knows you)
- I met a man **whose sister** knows you. (**his sister** knows you)

B Whom

Whom is possible instead of **who** when it is the *object* of the verb in the relative clause (like the sentences in Unit 93B):

- George is a person **whom I admire** very much. (I admire **him**)

You can also use **whom** with a preposition (**to whom** / **from whom** / **with whom** etc.):

- I like the people **with whom I work**. (I work **with them**)

Whom is a formal word and we do not often use it in this way. We usually prefer **who** or **that**, or nothing (see Unit 93). So we usually say:

- … a person **who/that** I admire a lot *or* … a person **I admire** a lot
- … the people **who/that** I work with *or* … the people **I work with**

C Where

You can use **where** in a relative clause to talk about a place:

the restaurant – we had lunch there – it was near the airport

→ The restaurant **where we had lunch** was near the airport.

- I recently went back to **the town where I grew up**.
  (*or* … the town I grew up in *or* … the town **that** I grew up in)
- I would like to live in **a place where there is plenty of sunshine**.

D

We say:

the day / the year / the time etc. { something happens *or* **that** something happens }

- I can't meet you on Friday. That's **the day (that) I'm going away**.
- **The last time (that) I saw Anna**, she looked great.
- I haven't seen Jack and Helen since **the year (that) they got married**.

E

We say:

the reason { something happens *or* **that/why** something happens }

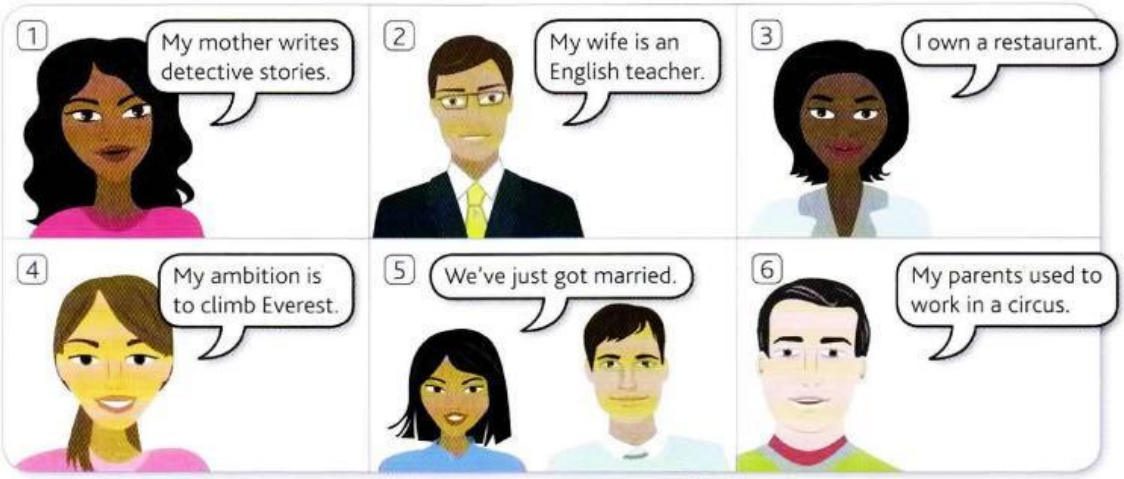
- **The reason I'm phoning** is to ask your advice.
  (*or* The reason that I'm phoning / The reason **why** I'm phoning)

Relative clauses 1–2 → Units 92–93 Relative clauses 4–5 → Units 95–96 Word list → Unit 96

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Exercises

94.1 You met these people at a party:



The next day you tell a friend about these people. Complete the sentences using who or whose.

1 I met somebody whose mother writes detective stories.
2 I met a man .....
3 I met a woman .....
4 I met somebody .....
5 I met a couple .....
6 I met somebody .....

94.2 **Read the situations and complete the sentences using where.**

1 You grew up in a small town. You went back there recently. You tell someone this.
I recently went back to the small town where I grew up.
2 You're thirsty and you want a drink. You ask a friend where you can get some water.
Is there a shop near here .....?
3 You work in a factory. The factory is going to close down next month. You tell a friend.
The ..... is going to close down next month.
4 Sue is staying at a hotel. You want to know the name of the hotel. You ask a friend.
Do you know the name of .....?
5 You play football in a park on Sundays. You show a friend the park. You say:
This is the ..... on Sundays.

94.3 **Complete each sentence using who/whom/whose/where.**

1 What's the name of the man whose car you borrowed?
2 A cemetery is a place ..... people are buried.
3 A pacifist is a person ..... believes that all wars are wrong.
4 An orphan is a child ..... parents are dead.
5 What was the name of the person to ..... you spoke on the phone?
6 The place ..... we spent our holidays was really beautiful.
7 This school is only for children ..... first language is not English.
8 The woman with ..... he fell in love left him after a month.

94.4 **Use your own ideas to complete these sentences. They are like the examples in Sections D and E.**

1 I can't meet you on Friday. That's the day I'm going away.
2 The reason ..... was that the salary was too low.
3 I'll never forget the time .....
4 Do you remember the day .....?
5 The reason ..... is that they don't need one.
6 ..... was the year .....

LIVEWORKSHEETS