

WHO v. WHOM

Nominative Case:	who	whoever	subjects, predicate nominatives
Objective Case:	whom	whomever	direct objects, indirect objects, obj. of preps
Possessive Case:	whose	whosever	



Examples of WHO:

- (1) The woman who is wearing the hair net is my mom.
(WHO is the SUBJECT of the Adj Clause)
- (2) The winner of the race was who?
(WHO is the PN)
- (3) The prize box of oil filters and buttons goes to whoever captures the escaped midget.
(WHOEVER is the SUBJECT of the Noun Clause)
- (4) The mother of this small child, whoever she may be, will have to explain why she sent it to school without a proper breakfast of coffee and bananas.
(WHOEVER is the PN)
- (5) After all, you're the one who stuck the fork in the electrical socket!
(WHO is SUBJECT of the Adjective Clause)

Examples of WHOM:

- (1) Whom did you buy it from?
(WHOM is the OOP of FROM)
- (2) The woman whom we all love is Mom.
(WHOM is the DO of LOVE)
- (3) I will give one free rabid monkey to whomever the judges choose as the winner.
(WHOMEVER is the DO of CHOOSE)
- (4) Knowing the difficulty of the final exam, I finally said, "Look. I'll study with whomever."
(WHOMEVER is the OOP of WITH)

HOT TIP: With questions, try making them into sentences to make it easier on yourself!



Ex. Who/Whom would you rather have dinner with?
(You would rather have dinner with who/whom.)

Ex. Who/Whom are you speaking to?
(You are speaking to who/whom.)

Ex. Who/whom do you think will win the Super Bowl?
(You do think who/whom will win the Super Bowl.)

TRY IT: These sentences are using WHO correctly. Can you explain why?

1. My brother, WHO is an idiot, fried an egg in the toaster for my mom on Mother's Day.
2. WHOEVER dropped the pungent stink-bombs in the stairways has the maturity of a peanut.
3. WHO will the lead in the musical be?

TRY IT: These sentences are using WHOM correctly. Can you explain why?

4. Mr. Titter gave WHOMEVER he saw at the pep rally free noogies and brand name sodas.
5. The Amish farmers, WHOM we chased with pitchforks and cowbells, retaliated and ambushed us at the bus stop with road apples.
6. WHOM did you ask to the dance?

Read the following sentences and decide whether to use WHO or WHOM.

7. Who / Whom do you think stole the 3-foot ceramic pickle?
8. Whoever/ Whomever ate the last brown sugar and cinnamon Pop Tart owes me an apology.
9. Marsh gave whoever / whomever supports the Giants a crying towel and a comforting hug.
10. The furry senior citizen who / whom we had caught in a box trap was hired by the Solanco Fair as a side-show act.
11. The teacher who / whom has the drooling problem and ferocious appetite for Twinkies is Mr. Dougherty.
12. Unfortunately, the girl who / whom is barking like a dog is my cousin, and yes, she's available.
13. Who / Whom did you go to the mall with?
14. The 8th graders, who / whom Momo showed around the school, were taken to Mr. Marsh's room and were told to pray that they don't get him next year.
15. Alex, who / whom eats tree bark and plays with butterflies, tossed his American Lit binder into the air and shouted, "You are killing so many trees, old man!"
16. Who / Whom did you buy that Nerf Uzi from?
17. Who / Whom wrote lots of gibberish on the bathroom wall?
18. Robbie, our friendly neighborhood cannibal, sautéed and grilled whoever/whomever he caught and whoever/whomever looked tasty.
19. Teddy, who / whom we left at a creepy bowling alley in Quarryville, hitchhiked home and got a ride on the back of a chicken wagon.
20. Out of both goalies, who / whom do you think has the best punt?

WHO v. WHOM: **ANSWERS**

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TRY IT: These sentences are using WHO correctly. Can you explain why?

1. My brother, WHO is an idiot, fried an egg in the toaster for my mom on Mother's Day.

SUBJECT

2. WHOEVER dropped the pungent stink-bombs in the stairways has the maturity of a peanut.

SUBJECT

3. WHO will the lead in the musical be?

The lead in the musical will be WHO. PREDICATE NOMINATIVE

TRY IT: These sentences are using WHOM correctly. Can you explain why?

4. Mr. Titter gave WHOMEVER he saw at the pep rally free noogies and brand name sodas.

he saw WHOMEVER at the pep rally. DIRECT OBJECT

5. The Amish farmers, WHOM we chased with pitchforks and cowbells, retaliated and ambushed us at the bus stop with road apples.

we chased WHOM with pitchforks and cowbells. DIRECT OBJECT

6. WHOM did you ask to the dance?

you did ask WHOM to the dance. DIRECT OBJECT

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