



Who and Whom

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Rule. Use the he/him method to decide which word is correct.

he = who

him = whom

Examples *Who/Whom* wrote the letter?

He wrote the letter. Therefore, *who* is correct.

For who/whom should I vote?

Should I vote for *him*? Therefore, *whom* is correct.

We all know who/whom pulled that prank.

This sentence contains two clauses: *We all know* and *who/whom pulled that prank*. We are interested in the second clause because it contains the *who/whom*. *He pulled that prank*. Therefore, *who* is correct.

WHOEVER and WHOMEVER

Rule 1. First of all, use the *ever* suffix when *who* or *whom* can fit into two clauses in the sentence.

Example Give it to *whoever/whomever* asks for it first.

Give it to *him*. *He* asks for it first.

Rule 2. Because we can substitute *him* and *he* into both clauses, we must use the *ever* suffix. Now, to determine whether to use *whoever* or *whomever*, here is the rule:

him + he = whoever

him + him = whomever

Therefore, *Give it to whoever asks for it first.*

Example We will hire whoever/**whomever** you recommend.

We will hire *him*. You recommend *him*.

him + him = whomever

Example We will hire whoever/**whomever** is most qualified.

We will hire *him*. *He* is most qualified.

him + he = whoever

Practice

Choose the correct word for each sentence.

1. He is the man _____ was employed here.
2. She is the woman _____ we employed last year.
3. Of _____ were you speaking?
4. _____ do you think will do the work best?
5. He is the man _____ we think, you mentioned.
6. I will vote for _____ you suggest.

7. _____ shall I ask about this matter?
8. Give the information to _____ requests it.
9. Tonight we shall find out _____ won.
10. _____ runs this show?
11. We intend to notify _____ ranks highest on the list.
12. These are the sign language interpreters _____ I feel, you should acknowledge.
13. _____ can we trust in a crisis?
14. Ms. Cohen, _____ has a way with words, will be the valedictorian.
15. The person _____ produces the most work will receive a bonus.
16. _____ are you dancing with next?
17. _____ would you say is the best person for this position?
18. The therapist will talk with _____ is needing her service.
19. We are not sure _____ set off the alarm.
20. Don't talk with anyone _____ you think might be connected with the competition.
21. _____ had my job before me?
22. It was she _____ they selected for the Cabinet post.

23. Sometimes it is the one _____ does the most work who is the least tired.
24. We plan to hire an assistant _____ is a good typist and proofreader.
25. The prize will be given to _____ writes the best essay.
26. The bookkeeper is the one to _____ the figures should be mailed.
27. Give the recipe for the vegetarian chili to _____ calls for it.
28. _____ did you really want to be there?
29. She is the contestant _____ they sent to us.
30. This vacation spot will refresh _____ seeks refuge here.

ANSWERS:

1. who
2. whom
3. whom
4. who
5. whom
6. whomever
7. whom
8. whoever

9. who

10. who

11. whoever

12. whom

13. whom

14. who

15. who

16. whom

17. who

18. whoever

19. who

20. who

21. who

22. whom

23. who

24. who

25. whoever

26. whom

27. whoever

28. whom

29. whom

30. whoever