

CONFUSED WORDS: WHO, WHOM, WHOSE

Pronouns

Pronouns take the place of nouns (persons, places, things) and must make a clear reference to the nouns for which they are substituted.

noun *pronoun*
Example: **Jorge** went to bed before the party ended because **he** was tired.

Relative Pronouns

Relative Pronouns may introduce subordinate (dependent) clauses, act as interrogatives (ask questions), and can be used as subjects, objects, or to show possession. For a complete explanation of relative pronouns, please refer to an English handbook.

WHO

Who is a **relative pronoun** that is always used as the subject of the verb. It is sometimes used as the first word of a question.

Who is also used to introduce a dependent clause and must relate back to a noun or pronoun which immediately precedes it.

relative pronoun
Example: Who is knocking at the door?

noun *relative pronoun*
Example: Cecilia, who is my best friend, is coming to visit me next week.

WHOM

Whom is a **relative pronoun** that is always used as the object of a verb or preposition.

Examples: *verb* *relative pronoun*
 You gave whom the keys to the house?

Preposition *relative pronoun*
 To whom was the letter addressed?

WHOSE

Whose is the **relative pronoun** that always shows possession and is always followed by a noun it possesses.

Examples: *relative pronoun* *noun*
 I like Stefano, whose attitude is inspiring.

relative pronoun *noun*
Whose Labrador won first prize at the dog show?

RULES SIMPLIFIED

When replacing the subject of the verb with a relative pronoun, use **WHO**.

When replacing the object of the verb with a relative pronoun, use **WHOM**.

When referring to possession, use **WHOSE**.

WHO for the subject pronoun	WHO for the subject pronoun	WHOSE for the noun it possesses
HE	HIM	HIS
SHE	HER	HER
WE	US	OUR
THEY	THEM	THEIR

CONFUSED WORDS: THIS AND THESE

THIS	THESE
<p>This: a pronoun or adjective used to indicate a person, thing, idea or event as present, near, or by way of emphasis.</p> <p>Example: <i>This</i> is my calico kitten, Custard. (pronoun) <i>This</i> room has a lovely view. (adjective)</p>	<p>These: the plural form of <i>this</i></p>
<p>This: an adverb used to modify or intensify adjectives</p> <p>Example: He kicked the ball <i>this</i> far from the goal post.</p>	
	<p>Example: <i>These</i> books are heavy.</p>

YOUR AND YOU'RE

YOUR	YOU'RE
<p>Your: the possessive case of <i>you</i> used before a noun.</p> <p>Example: I like <i>your</i> jacket. <i>Your</i> daughter is very intelligent.</p>	<p>You're: the contraction of you and are</p> <p>Example: <i>You're</i> going to be successful this semester. He thinks <i>you're</i> the hardest working student in the class.</p>