Who and Whom

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Grammarbook.com

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

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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
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29. whom

30. whoever