

Using Who, Whom, Whose

Who is used as a subject.

Who saw him?

(wrong): (Who did see him?)  
xxxx

Whom is used as the object of a verb.

Whom did he see? (The word *he* is the subject: He saw whom.)

Conversational: (Who did he see?)

Whom is also used as the object of a preposition.

With whom did he speak? (or:) Whom did he speak with?

(wrong): (With who did he speak?) Use *whom*, in both formal English and conversation when preceded by a preposition.  
xxxxxx

Conversational: Who did he speak with? (*Who* may be used in conversation, but not in formal English, when the preposition is at the end of the sentence or the clause.)

Whose refers to possession.

Whose birthday did you celebrate?

Whose book are you reading?

Using Prepositions with Question Words

When a preposition occurs in a statement or in a response, the question must also contain the preposition.

Compare:

*In whose home* was the party held?

or: Whose home was the party held in? (less formal)

The party was held *in* Jory's home.

*From which college* did she graduate?

or: Which college did she graduate from?

She graduated *from* Britt College.

*To what subject* was he attracted?

or: What subject was he attracted to?

He was attracted *to* the subject of politics.

(wrong): (Whose home was the party held?)  
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(wrong): (Which college did she graduate?)  
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(wrong): (What subject was he attracted?)  
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EXERCISE III. 1.

Change the following statements to questions, as demonstrated in number 1.

1. By the time classes begin, he will have completed the required reading.  
Will he have completed the required reading by the time classes begin?
2. The concert was attended by the majority of the student body.
3. She has decided to take a course in shorthand before she applies for a job.
4. If they finish their work early, they're going to go for a long walk.
5. When the candidate gave his speech, he was being careful not to offend any political group.

EXERCISE III. 2.

Make up questions with the words indicated in the parentheses, as demonstrated in number 1.

1. (Use the same verb tense as that in the statement.)

1. Stuart saw a bullfight in Mexico? (What?) (Where?)

**GOOD FORM:** The women, carrying baskets of fruit on their heads, walked very *gracefully*.

**REMINDERS:**

When describing related ideas, always use parallel structure. Review "Parallel Structure" in this section.

Avoid dangling participles and misplaced phrases. Review "Using Participles" in this section.

Be sure that the verb agrees with the subject and that the pronoun agrees with the antecedent. Review "Subject and Verb Agreement" and "Pronoun and Antecedent Agreement."

Be sure to use correct punctuation. Analyze the punctuation of the sentences in "Using Conjunctions" and "Using Participles."

Avoid errors in word usage. See "Misused Words" and "Common Errors in Word Usage" in the Supplement. Look up words in the dictionary to ascertain accuracy and meaning.

Make sure the spelling is correct. Look up words in a dictionary for spelling accuracy.

Avoid incomplete sentences, run-on sentences, etc. Review "Types of Sentences," p. 137 to 140.

Do not change tenses without reason. Review "Establishing a Point of View," p. 144, 145.

Avoid poor grammar usage. Review each section until you can freely and accurately apply the grammatical structures you have studied to your writing.

Avoid a dull style of writing; avoid a disconnected style of writing; avoid sudden changes of ideas. Sentences in paragraphs should not always begin with a subject (see *Sentence Variety*, p. 137). To provide variety and to move smoothly from one sentence to another, you can begin with *adjectives, adverbs, conjunctions, appositives* and *participial phrases*. Compare the poor form below to the good forms. (Of course a number of good forms are possible.) Notice that in the good forms, each subsequent sentence relates to the preceding sentence. In addition to beginning sentences with a variety of forms, the method of repeating a *key word* helps to ensure a continuity of ideas.

(poor form): (A galaxy is comprised of clusters of stars. It may have a billion stars. The Milky Way is the most well-known. The sun and the earth are part of it. People are surprised by that.)

**GOOD FORM:** A galaxy is comprised of clusters of stars. *Each cluster* may contain as many as a billion stars. *Of all the galaxies*, the Milky Way is probably the best known. *As a matter of fact*, the sun and the earth are part of the *Milky Way*. *When* people learn of this fact, they are often surprised.

**GOOD FORM:** Comprised of clusters of stars, a galaxy may contain a billion stars in a cluster. *Undoubtedly*, the most well-known *galaxy* is the Milky Way. *Surprising* to many people is the fact that the sun and the earth are part of the *Milky Way*.