

A **whose**

Study this example situation:

When we were driving home, we saw some people standing by the road. Their car had broken down, so we stopped to help them.

We helped some people **whose** car had broken down.
(= **their** car had broken down)



We use **whose** mostly for people:

- ☐ A widow is a woman **whose husband is dead**.
(**her** husband is dead)
- ☐ I met someone **whose brother I went to school with**.
(I went to school with **his/her** brother)

Compare **who** and **whose**:

- ☐ I met a man **who** knows you. (**he** knows you)
- ☐ I met a man **whose sister** knows you. (**his sister** knows you)

Do not confuse **whose** and **who's**. The pronunciation is the same, but **who's** = **who is** or **who has**:

- ☐ I have a friend **who's learning** Arabic. (**who's** = **who is**)
- ☐ I have a friend **who's just started** learning Arabic. (**who's** = **who has**)
- ☐ I have a friend **whose** sister is learning Arabic.

B **whom**

Whom is possible instead of **who** when it is the *object* of the verb (see Unit 93B):

- ☐ George is a person **whom I admire** very much. (I admire **him**)

You can also use a preposition + **whom** (**to whom** / **from whom** / **with whom** etc.):

- ☐ It's important to have friends **with whom** you can relax. (you can relax **with them**)

Whom is a formal word and we do not often use it in spoken English. We usually prefer to say:

- ☐ **a person I admire** a lot or a person **who/that** I admire a lot
- ☐ **friends you can relax with** or friends **who/that** you can relax with

C **where**

We use **where** in a relative clause to talk about a place:

- ☐ I recently went back to **the town where** I grew up. (I grew up **there**)
- ☐ **The restaurant where** we had lunch was near the airport.
- ☐ I would like to live in **a place where** there is plenty of sunshine.

D **the day, the time, the reason ...**

We say '**the day** we got married', '**the year** I was born', '**the last** time they met' etc.:

- ☐ I can't meet you on Friday. That's **the day I'm going away**.
- ☐ **The last time I saw her**, she looked great.

You can also use **that**:

- ☐ The last time **that** I saw her, she looked great.

We say '**the reason** I'm calling you', '**the reason** she didn't get the job' etc.







- ☐ **The reason I'm calling you** is to ask your advice.

You can also use **that**:

- ☐ The reason **that** I'm calling you ... or The reason **why** I'm calling you ...

Exercises

94.1 You met these people at a party:

1  My mother writes detective stories.	2  My wife is an English teacher.	3  I own a restaurant.
4  My ambition is to climb Mount Everest.	5  We've just got married.	6  My parents used to work in a circus.

The next day you tell a friend about these people. Complete the sentences using **who** or **whose**.

- I met somebody whose mother writes detective stories
- I met a man
- I met a woman
- I met somebody
- I met a couple
- I met somebody

94.2 For each situation write a sentence with **whom** (more formal) and without **whom** (less formal).

- You met a friend. You hadn't seen him for years.
more formal I met a friend whom I hadn't seen for years
less formal I met a friend I hadn't seen for years
- You needed a lawyer. A friend of yours recommended one.
more formal I went to see a lawyer
less formal I went to see a lawyer
- You called your bank with a problem. You spoke to somebody, but he wasn't very helpful.
more formal The person wasn't very helpful.
less formal The person
- Tom was in love with a woman, but she wasn't in love with Tom.
more formal The woman wasn't in love with him.
less formal The woman wasn't in love with him.

94.3 Complete the sentences using **who/whom/whose/where**.

- We helped some people whose car had broken down.
- A cemetery is a place people are buried.
- A pacifist is a person believes that all wars are wrong.
- An orphan is a child parents are dead.
- What's the name of the hotel your parents are staying?
- This school is only for children first language is not English.
- The person from I bought my car is a friend of my father's.
- I live in a friendly village everybody knows everybody else.

94.4 Use your own ideas to complete these sentences.

- I can't meet you on Friday. That's the day I'm going away
- The reason was that the salary was too low.
- I'll never forget the time
- was the year
- The reason is that neither of them can drive.
- The last time I was
- Do you remember the day?