

UNIT 19

whom, whose

1. 'whom' is used to refer to a person or a group of people. In a sentence, 'whom' is found between two persons or groups of people.

Example A

This is the salesgirl. I bought a pair of earrings from her.

Answer

This is the salesgirl **whom** I bought a pair of earrings from.

NOTE:

The crucial difference between 'who' and 'whom' is that the position of 'whom' in a sentence is between two people. In Example A, 'whom' is between 'salesgirl' and 'I'.

Example B

That woman was dismissed for misconduct by the manager. That woman is now the owner of three restaurants.

Answer

That woman **whom** the manager dismissed for misconduct is now the owner of three restaurants.

NOTE:

It is sometimes necessary to rearrange the information given in your answer. Note that 'that woman' is mentioned once only in the sentence.

2. 'whose' is used to show possession of a thing or a person by someone.

Example C

That is the boy. The boy's mother is a famous director.

Answer

That is the boy **whose** mother is a famous director.

NOTE:

Here is a typical 'whose' sentence. Note that possession (what belongs to who) is not always as clearly stated as in this example.

EXERCISE

For each question, rewrite the given sentence(s) using the word(s) provided. Your answer must be in one sentence. The meaning of your sentence must be the same as the meaning of the given sentence(s).

20

1. The old man's daughter is my teacher
_____ whose _____
2. The notorious arsonist burnt down that family's house
_____ whose _____
3. That lady is Alfred's wife
_____ whom _____
4. Everyone respected that minister. The minister has been imprisoned for fraud
_____ whom _____
- *5. Follow that suspect like a hawk
_____ whom _____
6. The girl's essay won first prize. The girl is my best friend.
_____ whose _____
7. The lady is my aunt. Her son spent two weeks in the hospital.
_____ whose _____
8. Did you come to see this man?
_____ whom _____
9. That little boy's family was swept away by flood waters. I pity the boy
_____ whose _____
- *10. The comedienne will be performing at our school. The comedienne's jokes always make me laugh.
_____ whose _____