

Who or Whom? Whose or Who's?



Who

WHO is a pronoun used to identify a person or animal.

Example 1: *"Who tracked mud on the rug?"*

Example 2: *"The dog, who tracked mud on the rug, was in trouble."*



Whom

WHOM is the objective form of **WHO**. Use it when the person or animal is the **OBJECT** receiving action.

Example 1: *"Whom should we scold for tracking mud?"*

Example 2: *"To whom should I give a lecture for tracking mud?"*

Example 3: *"The dog, to whom Mom had given a scolding for tracking mud, sat forlornly in the corner."*



Whose

WHOSE is used to question or identify ownership. When we want to know who owns something or identify the owner of something, we use the word "whose."

Example 1: *"Whose basketball is that?"*

Example 2: *"The debate team, whose bus had a flat tire, was late for the tournament."*

Example 3: *"Whose bus had a flat? The debate team's."*



Who's

The apostrophe is your key to unlock the meaning of **WHO'S**. It's easy to remember that **Who's** is simply a contraction of "who is."

Example 1: *"Who's going to the party?"*

Example 2: *"I'm not sure who's going to be there."*

If you're not sure about **who's** versus **whose**, just say it using both words—*who* and *is*—and see if it makes sense.

"Who's basketball is that?" means

"Who is basketball is that?" That doesn't make sense, so you know that "Whose" is the correct word there.

