

Exercise 1 Write Who Or Whom In The Blank To Make Each Sentence Correct.

Eleanor, To _____ Sara

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Understanding the Use of Who and Whom in English Grammar

Before diving into the exercise, it's essential to grasp the fundamental differences between who and whom. These words are interrogative pronouns and relative pronouns that are often confused, especially because their usage depends on grammatical case—subject or object.

Who: The Subject Pronoun

- Used as the subject of a verb.
- Replaces the person performing the action.
- Example: Who is coming to the party? (Here, 'who' is the subject performing the action of coming.)

Whom: The Object Pronoun

- Used as the object of a verb or preposition.
- Replaces the person receiving the action.
- Example: To whom should I address the letter? (Here, 'whom' is the object of the preposition 'to'.)

Analyzing the Sentence: Eleanor, To _____ Sara

The sentence in question is:

Eleanor, to _____ Sara.

To correctly complete this sentence, understand who the sentence is about and the role of the blank.

- Is the blank referring to the person Eleanor is talking about or referring to?
- Is Sara doing the action or receiving it?

Given the structure, it seems this is a relative clause or a question involving a prepositional phrase.

Possible Interpretations of the Sentence

Let's explore different ways to interpret and complete this sentence:

1. Eleanor is talking about Sara.

In this case, the sentence might be:

- Eleanor, to whom Sara is talking.

2. Eleanor is the recipient or the object of an action involving Sara.

In this case, perhaps:

- Eleanor, to whom Sara gave the book.

3. Fixing the sentence structure for clarity.

The original sentence is incomplete; to make it correct, we need to understand the intended meaning.

Guidelines for Completing the Sentence Correctly

To determine whether to use who or whom, follow these steps:

1. Identify the function of the blank:

- Is it the subject of a clause? Use who.
- Is it the object of a verb or preposition? Use whom.

2. Determine the clause structure:

- Does the clause after the blank contain a verb that the pronoun would perform or receive?

3. Test the pronoun:

- Replace the blank with he or him.
- If he fits, use who.
- If him fits, use whom.

Step-by-Step Guide to Completing the Exercise

Let's apply this to various potential completions.

Step 1: Restate the sentence with possible options.

- Eleanor, to who Sara
- Eleanor, to whom Sara

Step 2: Complete the sentence with proper grammar.

- Eleanor, to who Sara → Eleanor, to who Sara is speaking. (Incorrect)
- Eleanor, to whom Sara → Eleanor, to whom Sara is speaking. (Correct)

Step 3: Verify with substitution.

- Replace blank with he: Eleanor, to he Sara → Eleanor, to he Sara (Not correct)
- Replace blank with him: Eleanor, to him Sara → Eleanor, to him Sara (Incorrect)

Therefore, whom is the correct choice in this context.

Common Mistakes in Using Who and Whom

Understanding common mistakes helps avoid errors in both writing and speaking.

Mistake	Explanation	Correct Usage
Using who after a preposition	Prepositions require object pronouns, so whom should be used.	To whom, with whom, for whom
Using whom as a subject	Whom should not be used as a subject; use who	

instead. | Who is calling? (Correct), Whom is calling? (Incorrect) |
| Confusing sentence structure | Failing to identify whether the pronoun is
subject or object affects the choice. | Analyze the clause carefully. |

Practice Exercises: Fill in the Blank with Who or Whom

Below are several sentences similar to the original exercise. Try to complete them correctly.

1. Eleanor, to _____ should I send the invitation?
2. The teacher, _____ knows the answer, is absent today.
3. The woman _____ Sara was talking to is my aunt.
4. The students, _____ the teacher praised, worked hard.
5. Eleanor, _____ do you think will win the race?

Answers and Explanations for Practice Exercises

1. Eleanor, to whom should I send the invitation?
- Because the preposition to requires whom.
2. The teacher, who knows the answer, is absent today.
- The clause who knows the answer is the subject.
3. The woman whom Sara was talking to is my aunt.
- The preposition to governs the pronoun, requiring whom.
4. The students, whom the teacher praised, worked hard.
- The clause whom the teacher praised is a relative clause, object of praised.
5. Eleanor, who do you think will win the race?
- The question involves asking about the subject who.

Strategies for Mastering Who and Whom Usage

To become proficient in choosing between who and whom, consider these strategies:

- Practice substituting: Replace the blank with he or him.
- If he fits, use who.
- If him fits, use whom.
- Identify the clause role: Determine whether the pronoun is the subject or object within the clause.
- Review prepositions: When a preposition is involved, check if the pronoun is the object of that preposition.
- Use online quizzes and exercises: Regular practice helps reinforce rules.
- Read extensively: Exposure to correct usage in context improves understanding.

Conclusion: Mastering Who and Whom in English Grammar

Understanding the proper use of who and whom is crucial for clear and grammatically correct communication. The key lies in analyzing the sentence structure, identifying whether the pronoun functions as a subject or an object, and paying special attention to prepositions that often require whom.

In the specific exercise "Eleanor, to _____ Sara," the correct choice is whom because the preposition to governs the pronoun, and it functions as the object of that preposition.

Consistent practice, attention to grammatical detail, and applying substitution methods will enhance your ability to use who and whom correctly in both writing and speech. Remember, mastering these pronouns elevates your language skills and lends a more polished and professional tone to your communication.

Keywords: who vs whom, English grammar, relative pronouns, prepositions, grammar exercises, language learning, correct usage of who and whom, grammar tips

Frequently Asked Questions

In the sentence 'Eleanor, to _____ Sara,'

should you use 'who' or 'whom' to complete it correctly?

whom

Why is 'whom' the correct choice in the sentence 'Eleanor, to _____ Sara'?

Because it is the object of the preposition 'to,' and 'whom' is the correct object pronoun.

Can you rewrite the sentence 'Eleanor, to _____ Sara' using 'who' instead of 'whom'?

Eleanor, who Sara...

What is the rule for choosing 'who' or 'whom' in sentences like 'Eleanor, to _____ Sara'?

Use 'who' as the subject and 'whom' as the object of a verb or preposition; here, 'whom' is correct because it is the object of 'to.'

How can you test whether to use 'who' or 'whom' in this sentence?

Try replacing the blank with 'he' or 'him.' If 'him' fits, then 'whom' is correct; if 'he' fits, then 'who' is correct.

Is 'Eleanor, to whom Sara refers' grammatically correct for the blank in 'Eleanor, to _____ Sara'?

Yes, it is correct and more formal, using 'whom' as the object of the preposition 'to.'

What common mistake should be avoided when filling in the blank in 'Eleanor, to _____ Sara'?

Using 'who' instead of 'whom' when the pronoun is the object of the preposition 'to.'

Can the sentence 'Eleanor, to _____ Sara' be used without any change in everyday speech?

Yes, in informal speech, many people might say 'Eleanor, who Sara,' but

grammatically, 'whom' is correct.

What is the complete correct sentence using the appropriate pronoun for the blank?

Eleanor, to whom Sara is talking.

Additional Resources

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Introduction

Language accuracy is paramount in effective communication, especially in formal writing and educational contexts. The proper use of relative pronouns—who and whom—often causes confusion among learners and even seasoned writers. This article offers a comprehensive review of Exercise 1, which challenges individuals to determine whether to use who or whom in sentences involving complex structures. Specifically, the exercise focuses on sentences such as:

> Eleanor, to _____ Sara

While seemingly straightforward, such sentences often test one's understanding of grammatical roles and the nuances of relative pronouns. This review aims to dissect the exercise, explore the grammatical rules, provide illustrative examples, and suggest strategies for mastering the correct application of who and whom.

The Significance of Correct Relative Pronoun Usage

In English, relative pronouns serve as connectors that introduce relative clauses, providing additional information about a noun. The choice between who and whom hinges on whether the pronoun functions as a subject or an object within the relative clause.

Why does this matter? In formal writing and precise communication, misusing who and whom can lead to ambiguity or perceived grammatical errors, undermining credibility. Therefore, understanding their correct usage is essential for clarity.

Grammatical Roles of Who and Whom

The Role of Who

- Subject of a relative clause

Example: The man who called yesterday is my uncle.

Here, who functions as the subject performing the action within the clause.

The Role of Whom

- Object of a relative clause

Example: The person whom I met at the conference is a renowned scientist.

In this case, whom is the object receiving the action.

Applying These Rules to the Sentence: Eleanor, to _____ Sara

The core challenge is to determine whether who or whom fits grammatically and contextually into the blank. Let's analyze the structure and possible interpretations.

Deep Dive: Analyzing the Sentence Structure

The sentence:

> Eleanor, to _____ Sara

can be parsed as:

- Eleanor, (the subject or person we are talking about)
- to (preposition indicating direction or relationship)
- _____ (the blank to fill)
- Sara (the other person involved)

Possible interpretations:

1. Eleanor is communicating with someone, and Sara is involved.
2. Eleanor is giving something or directing something to someone, and Sara is connected.

Given the preposition to, the blank likely indicates a person to whom Eleanor is directing her attention, action, or communication.

Choosing Between Who and Whom

When to Use Who

- When the blank is the subject of a clause—i.e., the one performing the

action.

Example: Eleanor, to who Sara is speaking, is my sister. (Incorrect; should be "whom" because it's the object of the preposition)

When to Use Whom

- When the blank is the object of a preposition or verb.

Example: Eleanor, to whom Sara is speaking, is my sister. (Correct)

In the given sentence, since to is a preposition, and the phrase is "to _____ Sara," the blank is the object of the preposition to.

Therefore, the correct form in formal English is whom.

Formal vs. Informal Usage

While whom is grammatically correct as the object of a preposition, in conversational English, many speakers often replace whom with who, especially in informal contexts. However, for formal writing, academic papers, or tests like this exercise, the correct choice should be whom.

Practical Strategies for Determining the Correct Pronoun

1. Rephrase the sentence with a pronoun:

Replace the blank with he or him.

- Eleanor, to him Sara is speaking.
- Eleanor, to him, Sara is speaking.

2. Identify the grammatical role:

Since to is a preposition, its object form (whom) is appropriate.

3. Apply the "Preposition + Who/Whom" rule:

- Use whom after prepositions when the pronoun is the object.

Common Mistakes and Clarifications

Mistake	Correct Form	Explanation
Eleanor, to who Sara	Eleanor, to whom Sara	Because to is a preposition, whom is correct.
Eleanor, who Sara	Eleanor, whom Sara	When who or whom is the object of a verb or preposition, whom is correct.
Using who in all cases	Context-dependent; use whom	when it functions as

an object. | Overgeneralization leads to errors in formal contexts. |

Practice Exercises

To reinforce understanding, here are some practice sentences similar to the original:

1. Eleanor, to _____ did Sara give the book?

Answer: whom

Explanation: The preposition to governs whom.

2. Eleanor, _____ is the person you mentioned?

Answer: who

Explanation: The pronoun is the subject of the clause.

3. Eleanor, with _____ Sara is collaborating?

Answer: whom

Explanation: With is a preposition, so whom is correct.

Summary of Key Points

- Use who when the pronoun is the subject of a clause.
- Use whom when the pronoun is the object of a verb or preposition.
- After prepositions like to, with, for, by, etc., whom is traditionally correct in formal English.
- Replace the blank with he/him or she/her to test the correct form: if him fits, use whom; if he fits, use who.

Concluding Remarks

Mastering the correct use of who and whom is essential for precise and formal communication. Exercise 1, which involves filling in the blank with the appropriate pronoun in the sentence "Eleanor, to _____ Sara," is a classic test of understanding grammatical roles and prepositional usage.

In this specific case, the correct answer is whom because to is a preposition, and the pronoun is serving as the object of that preposition. Recognizing such patterns not only improves grammatical accuracy but also enhances overall language proficiency.

Continued practice, coupled with the application of the strategies outlined here, will help writers and learners confidently choose the correct relative pronoun in diverse contexts, elevating their mastery of English grammar.

End of Article

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