Knock Knock! Who's there? To. To Who? To Whom.

Who vs. Whom

In a sentence, who is used as a **subject**, as opposed to whom, which is the **object** of a verb or preposition.

Example: Who is going to Old Main? Example: With whom are you going to Old Main?

In the first sentence, who is the subject, but the second sentence has whom as the object of the preposition with.

 $Information\ retrieved\ from:$

Shundalyn, Allen. "Who Vs. Whom." *Grammarly Blog*, 4 April 2014, https://www.grammarly.com/blog/who-vs-whom-its-not-as-complicated-as-you-might-think/

Writing Desk Hours

Monday-Thursday 12-5pm, 7-10pm Friday 12pm-5pm Sunday 1-5pm, 7-10pm

Rolvaag 302 & 354

The answers to these practice examples are located at the Rolvaag Writing Desk!

Have more questions? Still don't understand who vs. whom? Make an appointment with a writing tutor!

- Visit the Writing Desk homepage, or stolaf.edu/asc/writing-help/
- 2.) Click on the Appointments box
- 3.) Sign in with your St. Olaf email, then click an appointment that works with your schedule!

Or just drop on by!

Pamphlet created by Naomi Chalk '18

Who vs. Whom

Brought to you by the Writing Desk

Writing desk

http://wp.stolaf.edu/asc/writing-help

Basic strategy

So how can you tell when your pronoun is the object of a verb or preposition? Here's a trick:

Try substituting he/she/they and him/her/them. If he/she/they fits, use who. If him/her/them fits, use whom.





To ask a question using who or whom, first identify the subject or object of a sentence. Try using this sentence to ask a question:

Example: St. Olaf students take Northfield Lines from the airport back to campus.

If "St. Olaf students" are the subject of your question, use who, but if they are the object of a preposition, use whom.

Who takes Northfield Lines?

By whom are Northfield Lines taken?

Just remember: who *is the subject,* whom *is the object*

For example, try using the he/she/they trick using this sentence:

Example: Who/whom wants to go to the Cage?

Try substituting "she" and "her":

Example: She wants to go to the Cage.

Example: Her wants to go to the Cage.

Because the first sentence is correct ("she" makes the sentence grammatically correct), it is the subject of the sentence. Therefore, you should use the word who.

Who wants to go to the Cage?

For some practice, try picking the correct version of *who/whom* for these sentences:

Religion 121 was canceled tomorrow by who/whom?

Who/whom is going for a walk in the Natural Lands?

With who/whom are you studying abroad for interim?

Now try making your own sentences using these rules!