

who,
whose or
whom?



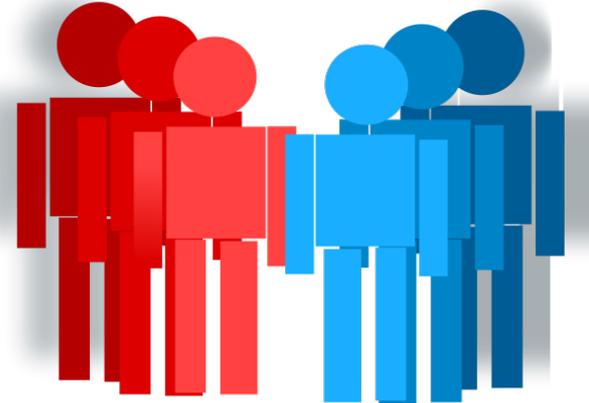
Relative pronouns

who, whom, which, whose, what and that

KRISTINA EKBLAD

'who' is used about people

- ▶ who=som
- ▶ Mrs Jones, who lives next door, is my mother's best friend.
- ▶ People who have a good education are often more successful than people who have no education at all.
- ▶ Bob, who works in the DIY store, lives in York.



'whom' is used about people

- ▶ whom=som
- ▶ 'whom' can be used about the object of a relative clause in formal contexts
- ▶ Mr Ackroyd, whom we all respect a great deal, is the new policeman in our village.
- ▶ 'who' is colloquial or informal but also correct
- ▶ Mr Ackroyd, who we all respect a great deal, is the new policeman in our village.



'whom' is used about people

- ▶ whom=som
- ▶ 'whom' is the only correct option **after a preposition**
- ▶ The girl, **to** whom you sent a postcard, is my classmate.
- ▶ The soldier, **about** whom the newspaper wrote, was sent home since he had been injured by a hand grenade.
- ▶ My sisters, **from** whom Jane got a Christmas present, live in Australia.



'which' is used about animals and things



- ▶ which=som
- ▶ The horse, which my father had bought at an auction, was very obedient.
- ▶ Birds, which migrate every year, use many different strategies to reach their destination.
- ▶ Expensive accessories, which are sold at Harrod's, are often bought by wealthy tourists.
- ▶ The black car, which was found in the vicinity of the factory, had been stolen by some juvenile delinquents.



'whose' is used about people, animals and things

- ▶ whose=vars 'whose' is the genitive of 'who'
- ▶ The man, whose car was sold...
- ▶ The dog, whose owner died...
- ▶ The house, whose front door is brown...



'whose' = 'of which' for animals and things

- ▶ The dog, whose owner died... =
- ▶ The dog, the owner of which died...

- ▶ The house, whose front door... =
- ▶ The house, the front door of which...

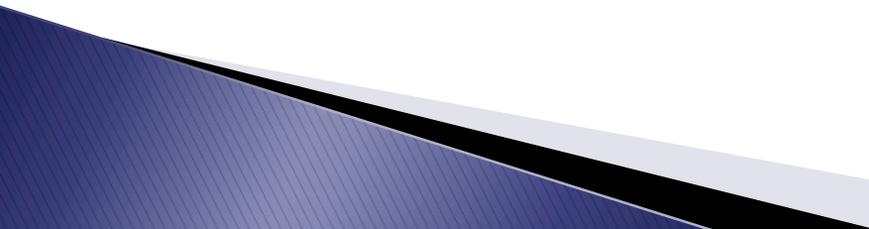
- ▶ The fabric, whose surface is very smooth... =
- ▶ The fabric, the surface of which is very smooth...



'what' = det som

- ▶ Det som intresserar mig...
 - ▶ What interests me...

 - ▶ Det som jag vill säga...
 - ▶ What I want to say...

 - ▶ Det som bekymrar många människor...
 - ▶ What worries a lot of people...
- 

'that' = som Many rules to remember about that!

- ▶ NEVER PLACE A COMMA BEFORE 'THAT'!

~~, that~~ 

'that' can be used instead of 'which' (or 'who') in many cases

The burglar that / who stole the money...



The cat that / which killed a mouse...



The briefcase that / which contains secret files...



'that' is the only correct relative pronoun in the following three cases

- ▶ 1. **Superlatives** + that
- ▶ This is **the best book** that I have ever read.
- ▶ Sir Anthony Hopkins is one of **the most brilliant actors** that has ever received a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.



- ▶ 2. The words **all, much, little** and **only** + that
- ▶ **All** that we know...
- ▶ **Much** that he said...
- ▶ **Little** that politicians do...
- ▶ The **only** document that was published...

... 'that' is the only option in the following three cases

- ▶ 3. Anything, something, everything, nothing + that
- ▶ Anything that you say or do...
- ▶ Something that seemed a bit odd...
- ▶ Everything that he touched turned into gold.
- ▶ (King Midas)



- ▶ Nothing that you do or say will convince them.

'that' can be left out in many cases

- ▶ Everything that he touched...
- ▶ Everything he touched...

- ▶ All that we know...
- ▶ All we know...

- ▶ The best book that I have ever read...
- ▶ The best book I have read...

