

A Prepositions + **whom/which**

You can use a *preposition* before **whom** (for people) and **which** (for things). So you can say: **to whom / with whom / about which / without which** etc. :

- Mr Lee, **to whom** I spoke at the meeting, is very interested in our proposal.
- Fortunately we had a good map, **without which** we would have got lost.

In informal English we often keep the preposition after the verb in the relative clause. When we do this, we normally use **who** (*not whom*) for people:

- This is my friend from Canada, **who** I was telling you **about**.
- Yesterday we visited the City Museum, **which** I'd never been **to** before.

B All of / most of etc. + **whom/which**

Study these examples:

Helen has three brothers. All of **them** are married. (2 sentences)

→ Helen has three brothers, **all of whom** are married. (1 sentence)

They asked me a lot of questions. I couldn't answer most of **them**. (2 sentences)

→ They asked me a lot of questions, **most of which** I couldn't answer. (1 sentence)

In the same way you can say:

none of / neither of / any of / either of
some of / many of / much of / (a) few of
both of / half of / each of / one of / two of etc. } + **whom** (people)
 } + **which** (things)

- Martin tried on three jackets, **none of which** fitted him.
- Two men, **neither of whom** I had seen before, came into the office.
- They have three cars, **two of which** they rarely use.
- Sue has a lot of friends, **many of whom** she was at school with.

You can also say **the cause of which / the name of which** etc. :

- The building was destroyed in a fire, **the cause of which** was never established.
- We stayed at a beautiful hotel, **the name of which** I can't remember now.

C **Which** (*not what*)

Study this example:

Joe got the job. This surprised everybody. (2 sentences)

Joe got the job, **which** surprised everybody. (1 sentence)

relative clause

In this example, **which** = 'the fact that he got the job'. You must use **which** (*not what*) in sentences like these:

- Sarah couldn't meet us, **which** was a shame. (*not what* was a shame)
- The weather was good, **which** we hadn't expected. (*not what* we hadn't expected)

For **what**, see Units 92D and 93D.

Exercises

96.1 Write the relative clauses in a more formal way using a preposition + whom/which.

- 1 Yesterday we visited the City Museum, which I'd never been to before.
Yesterday we visited the City Museum, *to which I'd never been before*.
- 2 My brother showed us his new car, which he's very proud of.
My brother showed us his new car,
- 3 This is a picture of our friends Chris and Sam, who we went on holiday with.
This is a picture of our friends Chris and Sam,
- 4 The wedding, which only members of the family were invited to, took place on Friday.
The wedding,
took place on Friday.

96.2 Use the information in the first sentence to complete the second sentence. Use all of / most of etc. or the ... of + whom/which.

- 1 All of Helen's brothers are married.
Helen has three brothers, *all of whom are married*.
- 2 Most of the information we were given was useless.
We were given a lot of information,
- 3 None of the ten people who applied for the job was suitable.
Ten people applied for the job,
- 4 Kate hardly ever uses one of her computers.
Kate has got two computers,
- 5 Mike won £100,000. He gave half of it to his parents.
Mike won £100,000,
- 6 Both of Julia's sisters are lawyers.
Julia has two sisters,
- 7 Jane replied to neither of the emails I sent her.
I sent Jane two emails,
- 8 I went to a party – I knew only a few of the people there.
There were a lot of people at the party,
- 9 The sides of the road we drove along were lined with trees.
We drove along the road, the
- 10 The aim of the company's new business plan is to save money.
The company has a new business plan,

96.3 Join sentences from the boxes to make new sentences. Use which.

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Laura couldn't come to the party. 2 Jane doesn't have a phone. 3 Alex has passed his exams. 4 Our flight was delayed. 5 Kate offered to let me stay at her house. 6 The street I live in is very noisy at night. 7 Our car has broken down. 	<p>This was very kind of her. This means we can't go away tomorrow. This makes it difficult to contact her. This makes it difficult to sleep sometimes. This was a shame. This is good news. This meant we had to wait three hours at the airport.</p>
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- 1 Laura couldn't come to the party, *which was a shame.*
- 2 Jane
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7