



SPaG Starters **Who or Whom**

We use **who** when referring to the subject of a sentence and **whom** when we are referring to the object.

A quick shortcut is to change the sentence around so that you use either he/she/they or him/her/them.



e.g. *The student **who** had missed yesterday's lesson was behind on their work.*

The student is the subject (the person carrying out the action).


The student could also be replaced by he/she/they, therefore 'who' is used.


Whom should I ask about what I have missed?

The person to be asked is the **object** (the person the action is happening to).

Or

When trying to substitute words in the sentence, you would need to reword it.

Should I ask he? 

Should I ask him? 

As the sentence only makes sense with the substitute 'him', 'whom' is used.

Can you insert either **who** or **whom** into the following sentences?

1. The student, _____ was late for the lesson, was given detention.
2. Tomas wanted to go into town but the friend _____ he asked for a lift was busy.
3. The mobile phone belongs to the girl with the black jacket on, _____ is standing over there.
4. _____ did you ask for help?
5. The band, _____ I really like, are going to be playing live on Friday night.

Now, write your own two sentences, one using **who**, and one using **whom**.



SPaG Starters **Who or Whom** Answers

1. The student, **who** was late for the lesson, was given detention.
2. Tomas wanted to go into town but the friend **whom** he asked for a lift was busy.
3. The mobile phone belongs to the girl with the black jacket on, **who** is standing over there.
4. **Whom** did you ask for help?
5. The band, **who** I really like, are going to be playing live on Friday night.

