Who Gets the Role?

Find the word's job before you choose.

11-12.L.1.b "Resolve issues of complex or contested grammar and usage."

NAME _____ DATE _____

WHO

Use **who** when the word is the subject of its own clause. A subject can appear inside a longer sentence.

Who composed that overture?

WHOM

Use **whom** when the word is the object of a verb or preposition in its own clause. Its position in a question does not change its job.

To whom did the violinist mail a postcard?

1 SORT

8 items

For Part 1, circle WHO or WHOM for each blank; for Part 2, choose two numbered items and explain the grammatical role that helped you decide.

1. 1. ____ will moderate the forum? WHO WHOM

2. 2. The curator asked ____ had restored the painting. WHO WHOM

3. 3. ____ did the panel nominate for the prize? WHO WHOM

4. 4. We know ____ wrote the anonymous letter. WHO WHOM

5. 5. With ____ should the director discuss the budget? WHO WHOM

6. 6. The engineer ____ the council hired submitted a report. WHO WHOM

7. 7. ____ do you think will lead the expedition? WHO WHOM

8. 8. The witness ____ spoke first changed her account. WHO WHOM

2 PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

Pick two items from Part 1. For each one, tell how you knew where it belonged.

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

3 MAKE YOUR OWN

One of each

For Part 3, write one new sentence that uses who as a subject and one that uses whom as an object.

WHO _____

WHOM _____

CHALLENGE

Write two linked sentences about the same person: ask a question using who as a subject, then answer it using whom as the object of a preposition.

ANSWER KEY

Who Gets the Role?

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	1. ___ will moderate the forum?	**WHO**	Subject of will moderate.
2	2. The curator asked ___ had restored the painting.	**WHO**	Subject of had restored in the embedded clause.
3	3. ___ did the panel nominate for the prize?	**WHOM**	Object of nominate.
4	4. We know ___ wrote the anonymous letter.	**WHO**	Subject of wrote in the embedded clause.
5	5. With ___ should the director discuss the budget?	**WHOM**	Object of the preposition with.
6	6. The engineer ___ the council hired submitted a report.	**WHOM**	Object of hired in the relative clause.
7	7. ___ do you think will lead the expedition?	**WHO**	Subject of will lead, not an object of think.
8	8. The witness ___ spoke first changed her account.	**WHO**	Subject of spoke in the relative clause.

PART 2 · PROVE IT

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item.

PART 3 · MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **WHO**: Who discovered the missing map?
- **WHOM**: Whom did the reporter interview?

Challenge: Who planned the exhibit? The curator to whom the board gave the budget planned it.

In item 7, who is the subject of will lead, even though do you think comes between who and that verb. Accept other Part 3 and challenge sentences when the pronouns have the required grammatical roles.