

## INTRODUCING RELATIVE PRONOUNS

The identification of relative pronouns is fairly easy for students; the difficulty can arise when they are asked to identify pronoun usage. Although most relative pronouns look just like interrogative pronouns, they serve a different function: they link a relative, or subordinate, clause to the main clause of the sentence. If the relative pronoun is the subject of the verb in the clause, the nominative case is used. If the pronoun is the object of the verb, preposition, indirect object etc...then the objective case is called upon. When showing ownership, we use "whose."

**Relative Pronouns are: who, whose, whom, which, that – W4 & T (4 Ws and a T)**

For our introduction, we'll begin by getting the students comfortable with identifying the relative pronouns and finish with their mastering the usage of who vs. whom. They will also be able to tell you whether the relative pronoun, which, is being used as a subject or an object.

**Materials:** Six interactive reproducible worksheets (2 per level), Gra-boom (which can be used as review after each level or cumulatively), and review games: Password, Pass the Thingy

### Objectives:

**Level One:** Students will identify the relative pronoun and clause

**Level Two:** Students will identify the clause, the verb, & the pronoun's usage in the sentence

**Level Three:** Students will identify and use relative pronouns in the correct case.

### Tell the students that:

**Who:** always nominative

**Whom:** always objective

**Whose:** always possessive

**Which and That:** can be either nominative or objective.

**A relative pronoun agrees with its antecedent in person, number, and gender, but its case (N,O, P) depends on its use in the clause.**

The protagonist, [with **whom** the reader empathizes], struggles with his moral fortitude throughout the book. *In this case the pronoun is the object of the preposition "with."*

The protagonist, [**whom** the reader never really understands], does not elicit much response from the audience. *In this case the pronoun is still objective, but it is the object of the verb "understands"*

The protagonist, [**who** lures the reader into the plot], is well developed by chapter three. *In this case the pronoun is nominative because who is the subject of the verb "lures."*

The protagonist, [**which** is a term used loosely], failed to emerge as a believable character. *Since which can be either a subject or an object, one has to see how it's used in the clause. In this case it is the subject of the linking verb "is."*

The plot [**that** began its resolution far too early in the novel] was weak at best. Notice the relative pronoun "that" is not used to refer to a person (the protagonist) as in the other examples. "That" should not refer to people. In this case it is the subject of the verb "began."

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