

Relative clauses 3: **whose/whom/where**

A

Whose

We use **whose** in relative clauses instead of **his/her/their**:

we helped some people – **their** car had broken down

→ We helped some people **whose** car had broken down.

We use **whose** mostly for people:

- ☐ A widow is a woman **whose husband is dead**. (her husband is dead)
- ☐ What's the name of the man **whose car you borrowed**? (you borrowed **his** car)
- ☐ I met someone **whose brother I went to school with**. (I went to school with **his/her** brother)

Compare **who** and **whose**:

- ☐ I met a man **who** knows you. (**he** knows you)
- ☐ I met a man **whose sister** knows you. (**his sister** knows you)

B

Whom

Whom is possible instead of **who** when it is the *object* of the verb in the relative clause (like the sentences in Unit 93B):

- ☐ George is a person **whom I admire** very much. (I admire **him**)

You can also use **whom** with a preposition (**to whom** / **from whom** / **with whom** etc.):

- ☐ I like the people **with whom I work**. (I work **with them**)

Whom is a formal word and we do not often use it in this way. We usually prefer **who** or **that**, or nothing (see Unit 93). So we usually say:

- ☐ ... a person **who/that** I admire a lot or ... a person **I admire** a lot
- ☐ ... the people **who/that** I work with or ... the people **I work with**

C

Where

You can use **where** in a relative clause to talk about a place:

the restaurant – we had lunch **there** – it was near the airport

→ The restaurant **where we had lunch** was near the airport.

- ☐ I recently went back to **the town where I grew up**.
(or ... the town I grew up in or ... the town **that** I grew up in)
- ☐ I would like to live in **a place where there is plenty of sunshine**.

D

We say:

the day / the year / the time etc. { something happens or
that something happens

- ☐ I can't meet you on Friday. That's **the day (that) I'm going away**.
- ☐ **The last time (that) I saw Anna**, she looked great.
- ☐ I haven't seen Jack and Helen since **the year (that) they got married**.

E

We say:

the reason { something happens or
that/why something happens

- ☐ **The reason I'm phoning** is to ask your advice.
(or The reason that I'm phoning / The reason **why** I'm phoning)