

THE BEST ACT PREP COURSE EVER

RELATIVE PRONOUNS

ACT English: Problem Set

Correct the pronoun case error(s) below.

1. Choosing which clubs to join was always hard for Tara, whom had little free time but had a wide range of interests.
2. Lana left her books, of which were stored in her locker, and had to go back for them so she could study for her test, it was the next day.
3. Audience members walk past the ushers whom direct each person to his or her respective seat, before being seated in their sections.
4. For this road trip we assigned the most important duties to Maya, whom will be responsible for bringing cooking utensils, and Angelo, who's car we are going to drive.
5. The latest software update, of it half of the programs have been downloaded thus far, takes up a large amount of space.
6. They recently unearthed an old box of letters in their attic, but they have no idea to which they are addressed.
7. The person who shoes, shirts, and towels are scattered across the locker room floor must take responsibility for their belongings.
8. One of the dedications in J.K. Rowling's first Harry Potter book is to Jessica, which is her daughter.
9. The anonymous class survey enabled the most honest feedback from the students, which responses were recorded without their names.
10. In completing the mail forms, you must indicate to who these gift baskets are addressed.

Choose the correct relative pronoun from the following options.

1. At her first apartment in Brooklyn, Josephine met her best friend Anthony whom had lived in the apartment below her.
A. NO CHANGE
B. which had
C. whom lived
D. who had
2. He wrote to the department head, a professor who teaches the two upper level philosophy classes, to be his thesis advisor.
A. NO CHANGE
B. whom
C. he
D. which
3. She has starred in many of her school's productions, but she is best known for her role in an original play, a woman with hypnotic powers whomever travels the world in hopes of strengthening them.
A. NO CHANGE
B. powers, whomever travels
C. powers which travels
D. powers traveling
4. For the final recital, the instructors decided to hire an emcee, who will open the show with a speech and introduce each piece thereafter.
A. NO CHANGE
B. whom
C. which
D. they
5. Guatemalan artisans, most of which are from indigenous families, continue the Mayan tradition of basket weaving.
A. NO CHANGE
B. whom
C. they
D. who
6. Aiden remembers freshman year of college and how he couldn't wait to go home for winter break; he had missed his friends, whom had lived in the same neighborhood.
A. NO CHANGE
B. who live
C. who had lived
D. whom lived
7. I gave the only duplicate of my house key to my mom, who I trust the most.
A. NO CHANGE
B. whom
C. her
D. which
8. Anton, a musician, whomever left his hometown at 16 to pursue a career in the industry, is set to reunite with his family next month after ten years.
A. NO CHANGE
B. musician who
C. musician which
D. musician, whom
9. On display at Vienna's Österreichische Galerie Belvedere Museum is The Kiss by Gustav Klimt, which had painted it at the peak of his "Golden Period."
A. NO CHANGE
B. whom
C. he
D. who
10. The ethics professor asked his teaching assistants, all of which conducted lectures this semester, to present a joint final lecture.
A. NO CHANGE
B. whom
C. who
D. them
11. The salmon congregate between the sea and the lake, which is where the water is most briny.
A. NO CHANGE
B. there
C. on where
D. OMIT the underlined portion.

ANSWER KEY

1. Choosing which clubs to join was always hard for Tara, **who** had little free time but had a wide range of interests. (Who is in front of the verb “had” -- a good clue you need the subject form “who.”)
2. Lana left her books, **which** were stored in her locker, and had to go back for them so she could study for her test, **which** was the next day. (Books aren’t people so “who” should be “which” -- “it” starts an independent clause (comma splice error) and could be changed to “which” to correct this otherwise run-on sentence.)
3. Audience members walk past the ushers, **who** direct each person to his or her respective seat, before being seated in their sections. (It’s likely you know that ushers direct people to their seats, so this information is potentially non-essential, triggering the comma. “Whom” is incorrect because “who” is the subject of the dependent clause and matches with the verb “direct.”)
4. For this road trip we assigned the most important duties to Maya, **who** will be responsible for bringing cooking utensils, and Angelo, **whose** car we are going to drive. (Who’s is a contraction meaning “who is.”)
5. The latest software update, of **which** half of the programs have been downloaded thus far, takes up a large amount of space. (“It” is not a relative pronoun and thus the clause between the commas is independent. You cannot connect two independent clauses with commas, so something must be done. One way to fix the sentence is to change “it” to “which” to prevent a run-on sentence.)
6. They recently unearthed an old box of letters in their attic, but they have no idea to **whom** they are addressed. (The word who/whom follows the preposition “to” so must be the object form “whom”-- remember prepositions always take OBJECTS, so WHOM comes after prepositions.)
7. The person **whose** shoes, shirts, and towels are scattered across the locker room floor must take responsibility for their belongings. (WHOSE is the appropriate possessive form here).
8. One of the dedications in J.K. Rowling’s first “Harry Potter” book is to Jessica, **who** is her daughter. (When “Who/whom” is followed by a verb such as “is”, “who” is the correct form.)
9. The anonymous class survey enabled the most honest feedback from the students, **whose** responses were recorded without their names. (“Whose” is the appropriate possessive form here).
10. In completing the mail forms, you must indicate to **whom** these gift baskets are addressed. (The word who/whom follows the preposition “to” so must be the object form “whom”-- remember prepositions always take OBJECTS, so WHOM comes after prepositions.)

ANSWER KEY

1. D 2. A 3. D 4. A 5. B 6. C 7. B 8. B 9. D 10. B 11. A

ANSWER EXPLANATIONS

1. D The relative pronoun “who” is used as a subject so it is correct.
2. A The relative pronoun “who” is appropriately used as a subject because it describes the details of department head’s position.
3. D Only the relative pronoun “who” could be used in this sentence to indicate a subject, but it is not an option. The correct option avoids redundancy. Remember there is more than one way to fix a broken sentence!
4. A The relative pronoun “who” is used as a subject in a relative clause to detail the emcee’s function. Choice (D) is a run on sentence (two independent clauses improperly joined by a comma). Relative pronouns form dependent clauses that properly fit with independent ones.
5. B The relative pronoun “whom” must be used as an object in a clause to describe necessary information about the artisans’ background. “Whom” is used for people, while “which” is used for things.
6. C The relative pronoun “who” is used as a subject and is correct. Choice (B) is in an improper verb tense (you cannot pair past perfect (had + -ed form) with the present tense).
7. B The relative pronoun “whom” is appropriately used as an object because it describes the mother, who is not the subject of the 2nd clause. “I” is the subject of the 2nd clause and the mother is the person trusted (“I trust HER,” not “I trust SHE”). Therefore “whom” is the best option as it is properly an object. “She” would create a comma splice error (run on sentence) and a pronoun case error (it would be “her” as I trust HER the most). In casual English, who is acceptable in cases such as this, but on the ACT, if you’re given a choice, choose the more formal “whom” option.
8. B The relative pronoun “who” is used to indicate a subject. The correct option eliminates the unnecessary comma.
9. D The relative pronoun “who” is used as a subject in a restrictive relative clause to add the detail about Klimt’s painting.
10. B The relative pronoun “whom” must be used as an object of a preposition (“of”) -- remember prepositions always take objects. “Whom” is used for people, while “which” is used for things. “He” would create a run-on sentence (comma splice error).
11. A “Which is where” may be wordy, but the other appealing answers form incomplete sentences that are technically comma splice errors. “On where” is simply awkward and non-idiomatic (what is on anything?).