

Practice Test Topic 41: The pronoun

ACTIVITY 1

Insert a suitable relative pronoun where necessary. If no relative is needed, leave it out. As there are no commas, you should supply them as well, if needed.

1. My friend car I am driving is on holiday.
2. Give the money to needs it most is not an easy decision to make.
3. The performance we listened to on the radio last night was the one was criticised in the papers.
4. Her aunt has travelled round the world sent her all these postcards is why she has such a large collection.
5. your need is 'who' it may sometimes be replaced by
6. He didn't believe I said annoyed me very much.
7. He wasn't surprised at he saw because I had told him to expect.
8. I did I could wasn't much.
9. He asked a question I answered and then he asked exactly the same question again showed that he hadn't been listening.

ACTIVITY 2

Choose the right pronoun. In some cases both possibilities exist.

1. We're much stronger than THEY / THEM at football.
2. Just between you and ME / I, it's HIM / HE I'm afraid of, not SHE / HER.
3. Which is your friend John? What, HE / HIM! I thought he was a big chap like I / ME.
4. What! I / ME accept a present from THEY / THEM?
5. It was HE / HIM I was talking about.
6. Damned be HE / HIM that first cries 'Hold, enough!' (Shakespeare)
7. Was it WE / US they were talking about? I expect so, since it was WE / US who pushed the old man in the river. Still, he began the quarrel, not WE / US.
8. What! I / ME angry! Surely it's HE / HIM with the red nose you mean, not I / ME.

ACTIVITY 3

Combine sentences with relatives; use a contact-clause/reduced relative clause wherever possible.

1. The building is the Finance Ministry. I live opposite it.

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2. The old man has died. You were talking to me about him and told me to go and see him.

3. Miss Harland had several new friends. All of them were atheists. Her father was the vicar of Nether Puddling.

4. The statements were all untrue. He made statements concerning his Aunt Tabitha's strange disappearance.

5. The tree fell on to a party of fishermen. All of them were injured.

6. He repudiated the charge with dignity. His dignity greatly impressed the judge.
(*Begin, 'The dignity ...'*)

7. The spoon was stolen from a hotel. He was eating with it.

8. This is the horse. It kicked the policeman. I saw him trying to clear away the crowd. The crowd had collected to watch a fight. Two men had started the fight.

9. I appreciate the kind words. You have welcomed me with kind words.

ANSWER KEY

ACTIVITY 1

1. My friend **WHOSE** car I am driving is on holiday.
2. Give the money to **WHOEVER/WHOMEVER**¹ needs it most is not an easy decision to make.
3. The performance we listened to on the radio last night was the one **WHICH/THAT** was criticised in the papers.
4. Her aunt, **WHO** has travelled round the world,² sent her all these postcards, **WHICH** is why she has such a large collection.
5. **WHENEVER** your need is 'who' it may sometimes be replaced by **'THAT'**
6. He didn't believe **WHAT** I said, **WHICH** annoyed me very much.
7. He wasn't surprised at **WHAT** he saw because I had told him **WHAT** to expect.
8. I did **WHAT** I could, **WHICH** wasn't much.
9. He asked a question (**WHICH/THAT**) I answered and then he asked exactly the same question again, **WHICH** showed that he hadn't been listening.

Comentado [Office1]: This is a case of a "sentential relative clause", in which the antecedent is a whole clause (*I did what I could*). Sentential relative clauses are always preceded by a comma, and the only possible relative pronoun is *which* (NEVER *what*).

ACTIVITY 2

Choose the right pronoun. In some cases both possibilities exist.

1. We're much stronger than **THEY** / **THEM** at football.
2. Just between you and **ME** / **I**, it's **HIM** / **HE** I'm afraid of, not **SHE** / **HER**.
3. Which is your friend John? What, **HE** / **HIM**! I thought he was a big chap like **I** / **ME**.
4. What! **I** / **ME** accept a present from **THEY** / **THEM**?
5. It was **HE** / **HIM** I was talking about.
6. Damned be **HE** / **HIM** that first cries 'Hold, enough!' (Shakespeare)
7. Was it **WE** / **US** they were talking about? I expect so, since it was **WE** / **US** who pushed the old man in the river. Still, he began the quarrel, not **WE** / **US**.
8. What! **I** / **ME** angry! Surely it's **HE** / **HIM** with the red nose you mean, not **I** / **ME**.

¹ Accepted by the Oxford English Dictionary (OED) instead of *whoever* as the object of a verb or a preposition.

² *Who has travelled around the world* can be both a defining and a non-defining relative clause. If she only has one aunt, which is the case I've considered, then the commas are necessary (non-defining).

If she has more than one aunt, we need to specify which one we are referring to (the one who has travelled around the world). In this case, the commas would be omitted, since the clause is defining.

ACTIVITY 3

Combine sentences with relatives; use a contact-clause/reduced relative clause wherever possible.

1. The building is the Finance Ministry. I live opposite it → The building opposite which I live is the Finance Ministry / The building is the Finance Ministry, opposite which I live.
2. The old man has died. You were talking to me about him and told me to go and see him → The old man you were talking to me about and who(m) you told me to go and see has died.
3. Miss Harland had several new friends. All of them were atheists. Her father was the vicar of Nether Puddling. → Miss Harland, whose father was the vicar of Nether Puddling, had several new friends, all of whom were atheists.
4. The statements were all untrue. He made statements concerning his Aunt Tabitha's strange disappearance. → The statements he made concerning his Aunt Tabitha's strange disappearance were all untrue.
5. The tree fell on to a party of fishermen. All of them were injured. → The tree fell on to a party of fishermen, all of whom were injured.
6. He repudiated the charge with dignity. His dignity greatly impressed the judge. (Begin, 'The dignity ...') → The dignity with which he repudiated the charge greatly impressed the judge.
7. The spoon was stolen from a hotel. He was eating with it. → The spoon he was eating with was stolen from a hotel.
8. This is the horse. It kicked the policeman. I saw him trying to clear away the crowd. The crowd had collected to watch a fight. Two men had started the fight. → This is the horse which/that kicked the policeman, whom I saw trying to clear away the crowd who/that had collected to watch a fight two men had started.
9. I appreciate the kind words. You have welcomed me with kind words. → I appreciate the kind words you have welcomed me with.

Comentado [Office2]: Remember that relative pronouns may be premodified (this is introduced in Advanced Level 2): *all of whom, some of which, both of whom, several of which, none/neither of whom, etc.*

Comentado [Office3]: Placing the preposition at the end makes the sentence more informal. We could have a more formal alternative by saying: *I appreciate the kinds words with which you have welcomed me.* In this case, pronoun omission is not possible.