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| Pronoun Pro Tip  Who vs. Whom  To figure out whether to use “who” or “whom” in a sentence, follow the following three steps:   1. **Isolate** the part of the sentence starting with who/whom.   Support the candidate **who/whom you can trust.**   1. **Substitute** who/whom for he/him. “Who” and “he” are both subjective case pronouns. “Whom” and “him” are both objective case pronouns.   **He/him** you can trust.   1. **Rearrange** the words so that they form a Standard English sentence and **read** with the substituted words. If “he” is correct in the new sentence, use “who” in the original sentence. If “him” is correct in the new sentence, use “whom” in the original sentence.   You can trust he/**him.**  **Correct sentence:** Support the candidate **whom** you can trust. | Pronoun Pro Tip  Pronouns and Gerunds  **Gerunds** are –ing verbs working as nouns in a sentence. For example, “singing” is the gerund in the following sentence:  John loves my **singing**.  Just as “my” rather than “me” precedes “singing” in the sentence above, pronouns before gerunds should always be in the **possessive case**. The possessive case pronouns are as follows:  My  His  Her  our  your  their  Using the possessive case pronoun places emphasis on the action of the gerund rather than other person performing the action. For example, in the sentence above, using “my” shows that John loves the singing, not necessarily the person doing the singing.  **Examples:**   * They have no record of **your having** been there. * We copied **his writing**. | Pronoun Pro Tip  Pronouns and Prepositions  **Prepositions** are words that show relationships of position, time, or direction.   |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | **Common Prepositions** | | | | of | from | after | | in | by | over | | to | about | between | | for | as | out | | with | into | against | | on | like | among | | at | through | without | | before | under | around |   When pronouns follow prepositions, they should always be in the **object case.** The object case pronouns are as follows:  us  me  him  her  them  whom  whomever  **Examples:**   * The dog sat **between** **her** and **me**. * They bought the tickets **from** **us**. * My little sister looks **like me**. * The ghost passed **through her**. * I’ve heard **of them**. | Pronoun Pro Tip  Vague Pronoun Reference  Every pronoun should have a clear and conspicuous referent or noun to which it refers. While any pronoun can be the victim of vague reference, the pronouns “**which**,” “**this**,” and “**that**” are the ones most often plagued by this issue.  These pronouns are often misused to refer to an entire sentence or idea when they are not strong enough to do so. To correct these errors, place a noun that clearly names the referent before “which” or after “this” and “that.”  **Vague:**   1. Alice thought that that cat’s coloring was pretty, **which** made her want to adopt her even more. 2. Puritans were extremely devout. **This** guided their day-to-day actions. 3. He worked out every day. That helped him to pass the physical with flying colors.   **Clear:**   1. Alice thought that that cat’s coloring was pretty, **a trait which** made her want to adopt her even more. 2. Puritans were extremely devout. **This** **belief** guided their day-to-day actions. 3. He worked out every day. That **training** helped him to pass the physical exam with flying colors. |