

Object of a preposition

Prepositions are followed by a noun or pronoun which acts as their object. When the object of a preposition is a pronoun, the pronoun should be in the object form. Examples of object pronouns are: *me, him, them, us, her, you* etc.

Can you send this letter to her tomorrow? (NOT Can you send this letter to she tomorrow?)
Here the pronoun *her* is the object of the preposition *to* and hence it should be in its objective case.

She sat among them. (NOT She sat among they.)

Would you like to come with us? (NOT Would you like to come with we?)

Here the pronoun *us* is the object of the preposition *with*.

Who and Whom

These words are often confused. *Whom* is the objective case of *who*. When *who* is used as the object of a preposition, it changes its form to *whom*.

Mary saw the men, at least one of whom was wearing a mask, walking through the woods.

(NOT Mary saw the men, at least one of who was wearing a helmet...)

Here *whom* is the object of the preposition *of*.

Many people don't know when to use *who* and *whom*. Here is a simple tip. Always use *whom* after a preposition.

The boys were punished by the teacher.

By whom were the boys punished? (NOT By who were the boys punished?)

Here *whom* acts as the object of the preposition *by*.

If and whether

Both *if* and *whether* can be used to introduce an yes / no question.

Object of a preposition

I don't know if she will come. OR I don't know whether she will come.

After a preposition, only whether is possible.

A decision about whether betting should be legalized is pending. (NOT A decision about if betting should be ...)