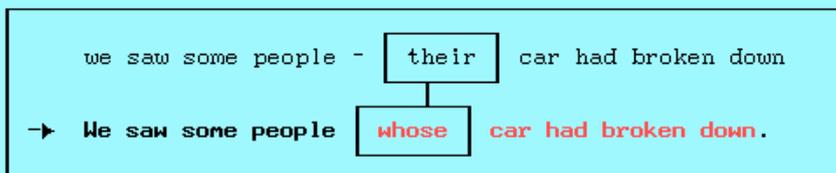


Unit 90 Relative clauses (3) - whose, whom and where

a Whose

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



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 girl whose car you borrowed? (you borrowed her car)
- The other day I met someone whose brother I went to school with. (I went to school with his brother)

b Whom is possible instead of **who** (for people) when it is the *object* of the verb in the relative clause (like the sentences in **Unit 89**):

- The man whom I wanted to see was away on holiday. (I wanted to see him)

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

- The girl with whom he fell in love left him after a few weeks. (he fell in love with her)

But we do not often use **whom**. In spoken English we normally prefer **who** or **that** (or you can leave them out - see **Unit 89**):

- The man (who/that) I wanted to see ...
- The girl (who/that) he fell in love with ...

For **whom** see also **Units 91** and **92**.

c Where

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



- I recently went back to the town where I was born. (or 'the town (that) I was born in')
- I would like to live in a country where there is plenty of sunshine.

d We use **that** (or we leave it out) when we say **the day / the year / the time** (etc.) **that something happened**:

- Do you still remember the day (that) we first met?
- The last time (that) I saw her, she looked very well.
- I haven't seen them since the year (that) they got married.

e You can say **the reason why something happens** or **the reason that something happens**. You can also leave out **why** and **that**:

- The reason (why/that) I'm phoning you is to invite you to a party.

