

Pronouns – personal, possessive and relative

Starter: Sort the pronouns below into the correct place on the chart.

she	who	they	which
whose	them	we	that

Personal Pronoun	Relative Pronoun
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Main task: Read the passage then answer the questions

She had seen him there so many times before, sitting quietly near the junction. There was nothing drastically different about the day. She just finally plucked up the courage to say hello.

“Would you like anything from the store?” she asked, trying her best to strike up a natural-feeling conversation. “I’m just heading in there.” There was a slight pause. Her mind, which was always prone to self-doubt, suddenly filled with anxious thoughts. Had she unwittingly said something wrong? Was he offended by the offer? Oh, why did things always so quickly turn awkward when she met new people? What was he...

A beaming smile flashed across the man’s face. “That would be so generous, thank you. They have a coffee machine in there and, if it’s not too much trouble, I would love a hot chocolate.” Anna was flooded with relief. The man’s good mood was infectious, and she felt a smile spreading its way across her own face as she dipped inside to get the drink.

Over satisfied sips of his steaming cocoa, the man recounted his story to Anna. His name was Ismael and he had fled from his native country just over a year previously, when the government had begun to imprison men like him. He left Anna wide-eyed with stories of avoiding soldiers by wading through marshes and catching rides on the backs of farm trucks. He spoke fondly but sadly of his wife and children, whom he had been forced to leave behind and had barely spoken to since. They were living with his parents, which was a comfort to him. He knew they were safe and cared for, but living out here on the streets of a foreign land, he was not. He felt very alone.

- Look at paragraph 4. Write a list of all the personal and relative pronouns in the paragraph. If a pronoun appears several times, only write it once.
- In paragraph 4, who or what is referred to by both the personal pronoun ‘they’ and the relative pronoun ‘whom’?
- Terri adds the following relative clause to this sentence from paragraph 3:
A beaming smile flashed across the man’s face, _____ relaxed Anna instantly. Which relative pronoun should he use to complete the sentence?
- Find and copy a relative clause in paragraph 2.

Extension: correct or not correct?

A soldier, which had never faced danger like this before, shuffled nervously.

Marcus has used the relative pronoun ‘which’. Has he used the correct relative pronoun? Explain.

Luis, whose feet were hurting his, was still grumbling.

Omar uses the personal pronoun ‘his’. Has he used the correct pronoun? Explain.

Answers

Personal Pronoun	Relative Pronoun
she	who
they	which
them	whose
we	that

Main task

- Personal pronouns: her, he and they
Relative pronoun: whom
- Ismael's wife and children
- which
- Her mind, which was never very confident, began to race.

Extension

Marcus is incorrect as 'which' is usually used to refer to objects and not people. He should have used the relative pronoun 'who'.

Omar is incorrect. He should have used the personal pronoun 'him'.