

Nelson Mandela, who(m) I met in... Relative clauses 5 (of 7) ★★☆☆

(For RESTRICTIVE and NON-RESTRICTIVE, see GB 137)

1. **Who(m)** as person and OBJECT (of the clause):



Who as subject (see GB 137):

Nelson Mandela, who was born in 1918, became president of South Africa in 1994.

Who(m) as object:

Nelson Mandela, who(m) the previous government had imprisoned for many years, became president ...

2 Note on **whom**

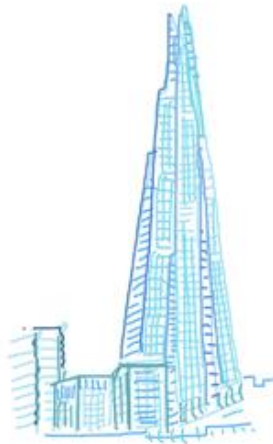
Whom is the traditionally correct object pronoun (for referring to people), and we still use it in formal writing, and especially after a preposition:

Our chairperson, to whom we all feel indebted, is retiring soon.

William Shakespeare, about whom so much has been written, is our greatest writer.

But in speech and less formal writing, we often use *who* as object in a non-restrictive clause.

3 **Which** as thing and SUBJECT or OBJECT (of the clause):



Which as subject or object:

The Shard, which is the tallest building in London, was completed in 2013.

The Shard, which many people admire, is now the tallest building in London.

This is non-restrictive (everyone in London knows what the Shard is).

We mostly use these clauses in writing, and the commas are important.

See GB 139 (next week) for **whose**.

Quick check

Complete each sentence about Olympic (2012) winners with *who*, *who(m)*, *whom* or *which*:

1 Usain Bolt, _____ won three gold medals, is from Jamaica.

2 Their swimmers, without _____ the USA would not have made first place, won 16 medals between them.

3 Jessica Ennis, _____ all Londoners adored, won the women's heptathlon

4 The 2012 Olympics, _____ were held in London, were a success.

5 James Kirani, _____ won gold for Grenada, is now a national hero.

