

**Advanced 3**  
**Unit 2 Language Focus 2**  
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**Preposition + Adjective Clause**

**Point:**

If an adjective clause starts with the objective relative pronoun “which” or “whom”, it is possible to move the preposition inside the adjective clause to the position before the relative pronoun.

Examples:

This is the classroom **which** we study **in**. => This is the classroom **in which** we study.  
He is the man **whom** I talked **to**. => He is the man **to whom** I talked.  
Here's the solution **which** he thought **of**. => Here's the solution **of which** he thought.

**Point:**

The use of the preposition before the relative pronoun does not change the overall meaning of the sentence, but it makes the sentence look more formal and closer to the written style.

**Point:**

Many years ago, when Latin was the official language in Europe, there was a law in the Latin grammar which stated a sentence must not end with a preposition. Some English grammarians wrongly thought that this law was universal and they disapproved of the English sentences which ended with a preposition. But later on, it was discovered such a rule did not apply to English.

**More Examples:**

The house to which we moved was bigger than ours.

The woman with whom I spoke on the phone is actually my wife.

**Point:**

When “which” functions as the subject of the adjective clause, a preposition cannot precede it.

Example:

✗ The book **from** which I borrowed you was very interesting.

✓ The book which I borrowed **from** you was very interesting.

**Point:**

A preposition can precede only the objective relative pronouns “which” and “whom” in adjective clauses. It is not acceptable to use a preposition before other relative pronouns.

- ✗ The plan **about that** he is thinking will take a lot of work.
- ✓ The plan **that** he is thinking **about** will take a lot of work.
- ✓ The plan **about which** he is thinking will take a lot of work.
- ✓ The plan **which** he is thinking **about** will take a lot of work.
  
- ✗ The woman **about who** he is thinking is his girlfriend.
- ✓ The woman **who**he is thinking **about** is his girlfriend.
- ✓ The woman **about whom**he is thinking is his girlfriend.
- ✓ The woman **whom**he is thinking **about** is his girlfriend.

**Point:**

In the following sentence, we can't use the preposition “at” before “whom” because “at” is part of the adverbial phrase of place “at the party”, not a preposition related directly to the verb of the adjective clause.

- ✗ The person **at** whom I met the party was my cousin.
- ✓ The person whom I met **at** the party was my cousin.

Source:

[Advanced 3 \(anglophone.ir\)](http://anglophone.ir)