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Basics. Fronted Prepositions in Relative Clauses

Hard | B2 | Upper Intermediate | Clause | Complex sentence | Phrase | Possessive | Preposition | Pronoun | Relative clause | Subject | Word order | Collocations

1. Help Professor Higgins write his highly formal academic paper on 18th-century politics. Select ALL the sentences that correctly use fronted prepositions (placing the preposition before the relative pronoun) for a strict formal register.

Select all that apply.

A) The monarch to whom the secret letter was addressed never received it.
B) The monarch to who the secret letter was addressed never received it.
C) The controversial treaty upon which the two nations agreed was signed in 1812.
D) The controversial treaty upon that the two nations agreed was signed in 1812.
E) The monarch whom the secret letter was addressed to never received it.

2. Help the detective complete her dramatic final report by choosing the grammatically correct option.

The mysterious informant _____ the detective confided turned out to be the mastermind all along!

Select one.

A) in who
B) in whom
C) in that
D) whom

3. Complete the spaceship captain's bizarre daily log by choosing the correct formal prepositional phrase for each gap.

The highly advanced alien species _____ we just made contact unexpectedly offered us a platter of space-tacos.
Meanwhile, the mysterious glowing orb _____ we are now responsible has started humming an upbeat pop tune.
I am beginning to suspect that the uncharted galaxy _____ our ship just emerged is actually a giant cosmic amusement park.

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

A) from which
B) for which
C) with which

Blank 2

A) with which
B) from which
C) for which

Blank 3

A) for which
B) with which
C) from which

4. Mr. Belvedere, the head butler, is drafting a strict etiquette manual for the new estate staff. Select ALL the sentences that are grammatically correct and maintain his highly formal tone by placing the preposition before the relative pronoun.

Select all that apply.

A) The crystal glasses in which the vintage wine is served must be polished twice.
B) The crystal glasses in that the vintage wine is served must be polished twice.
C) The dignitaries to whom you will serve afternoon tea are seated in the parlor.
D) The dignitaries to who you will serve afternoon tea are seated in the parlor.
E) The grand estate which the duke resides in requires constant maintenance.

5. Complete the snooty food critic's latest scathing review by selecting the correct formal phrase.

The alarming enthusiasm _____ the waiter presented the deep-fried grasshoppers completely ruined my appetite.

Select one.

- **A)** by which
- **B)** with that
- **C)** which with
- **D)** with which

6. Help a pompous spaceship captain log his official report about a bizarre alien encounter by choosing the best words for each gap.

Captain's Log, Stardate 4092:

The mysterious neon-pink nebula _____ the strange transmission originated smelled strongly of strawberries. Unfortunately, the six-eyed alien ambassador, _____ I attempted to negotiate a peace treaty, simply ate my communication device and burped.

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

- **A)** from which
- **B)** from that
- **C)** where from

Blank 2

- **A)** with whom
- **B)** with who
- **C)** whom with

7. Help the detective complete her formal report on the great penguin heist by choosing the correct prepositional phrase for each clause.

The exact extent _____ the zookeeper was involved remains a heavily guarded secret.
Furthermore, the absurd premise _____ the entire heist was based makes absolutely no logical sense.
Finally, the highly suspicious manner _____ the penguin vanished suggests a mastermind at work.

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

- **A)** in which
- **B)** on which
- **C)** to which

Blank 2

- **A)** to which
- **B)** in which
- **C)** on which

Blank 3

- **A)** on which
- **B)** to which
- **C)** in which

8. A frustrated project manager is writing a sternly worded, formal email to her software development team. Select ALL the grammatically correct sentences she could include in her report.

Select all that apply.

- **A)** We discovered fifty critical bugs, most of which were caused by the recent update.
- **B)** We discovered fifty critical bugs, most of that were caused by the recent update.
- **C)** I spoke directly to the senior engineers, several of whom denied any responsibility.
- **D)** I spoke directly to the senior engineers, several of who denied any responsibility.
- **E)** We discovered fifty critical bugs, most of which they were caused by the recent update.

9. Help a highly anxious job applicant sound perfectly professional in his follow-up email by choosing the correct formal phrases.

Dear Hiring Committee,

The senior director, _____ I addressed my initial cover letter, was wonderfully welcoming during my interview. Furthermore, the rigorous conditions _____ the marketing team operates sound like exactly the kind of thrilling challenge I am looking for!

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

- **A)** to who
- **B)** to whom
- **C)** whom to

Blank 2

- **A)** under which
- **B)** under that
- **C)** which under

10. Help the eccentric professor complete his rather alarming report to the safety committee.

The highly explosive chemical compound _____ yesterday has mysteriously vanished from the laboratory.

Select one.

- **A)** which I was experimenting
- **B)** with which I was experimenting with
- **C)** with which I was experimenting
- **D)** with that I was experimenting

11. Complete the dramatic historian's lecture notes by selecting the grammatically correct option for each gap.

The shaky foundation _____ the ancient empire was built eventually crumbled under the weight of terrible leadership. However, the astonishing extent _____ the emperors simply ignored their falling walls remains hilarious to modern scholars.

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

- **A)** upon which
- **B)** on that
- **C)** which upon

Blank 2

- **A)** to which
- **B)** at which
- **C)** for which

12. Complete the stressed college student's complaint about their thesis by choosing the correct formal relative clause for each blank.

The esteemed professor _____ approval my entire academic future depends just sighed heavily at my first draft. Worse still, the obscure historical texts _____ I am referring throughout the essay were mostly found on a dubious fan forum. To top it all off, the study group members _____ I collaborated spent the whole time watching cat videos!

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

- **A)** to which
- **B)** with whom
- **C)** on whose

Blank 2

- **A)** with whom
- **B)** on whose
- **C)** to which

Blank 3

- **A)** to which
- **B)** on whose
- **C)** with whom