Who vs Whom

Who: is reserved for the subject of the sentence.
The subject is the one in the sentence doing the action.

Whom: is reserved for the object of the sentence.
The object is the one receiving the action.

Easy steps to help you use “who” vs “whom” correctly.

_The teacher spoke to Tanya about her tardiness._

1. Firstly, keep in mind that your usage of the pronoun “who” vs “whom” will depend on the answer you are looking for.
2. Identify the main verb first. The verb is “spoke.”
3. Ask yourself, who is the one doing the speaking? The teacher. Therefore, she is the subject of the sentence.
4. Who is the one receiving the speaking? Tanya.
5. Now if we were to construct this into a question, it would be:
   Who spoke to Tanya about her tardiness?
   OR
   Whom did the teacher speak to about tardiness?

Examples:

___ did you call last night?

1. Identify the main verb - “call”
2. Is there someone doing the calling? “you” is the subject doing the calling.
3. Is there someone being called? That is left unanswered. Since that is the object of the sentence, we would use the word “whom.”
4. Answer: Whom did you call last night?

___ emptied the trash yesterday?

1. Identify the main verb - “emptied”
2. Is there someone doing the emptying? No. No one is mentioned. Therefore, we are missing the subject of the sentence and need to use the subject pronoun form “who.”
3. Answer: Who emptied the trash yesterday?

Exercises:
Please complete the following questions with who or whom.

1. ___ couldn’t sleep last night because of the fire alarm?
2. ___ reminded John of his doctor’s appointment?
3. ___ did Sandra meet at the doctor’s office?
4. ___ bought the candy at the store for Anna?
5. ___ did Mrs. Arsenla give an “F?”
6. ___ couldn’t find the restaurant?
7. ___ did Martin accuse of stealing the cookies from the cookie jar?