

W-ever Words

We can think about the W-ever words semantically as the 'W' word + the quantifier 'any'.

The trick to understanding these terms is to realize that they apply to any single one of the referents, and at the same time refer to all of the referents.

• Whatever -	Any thing (this could also be every thing).
• Whenever -	Any time (this could also be 'every time').
• Wherever -	Any 'where' (anywhere or everywhere).
• Whoever -	Anyone (any person or every person, or sometimes used to refer to a person unknown to the speaker).
• Whichever -	Any 'which' (choice between a group or set).
• However -	Any 'way' (in any manner or way, regardless of how).

Basically each one means:

"It does not matter what / when / where etc."

OR

"An unknown thing / time / place etc."

Examples of Whatever

- **Whatever** you do, pay attention to the road when you are driving. (You can do anything as long as you pay attention to the road).
- They say you can buy **whatever** you desire in Harrods, as long as you have the money. (You can buy anything in Harrods, if you have enough money).
- The student was so intelligent that **whatever** we taught, she understood. (She understood everything she was taught).
- The criminal said he would do **whatever** he could in order to get out of jail. (He would do everything or anything he could to get out of jail).

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Examples of Whenever

- **Whenever** the neighbors flush the toilet, water comes through our ceiling.
(Every time they flush the toilet, it happens).
- **Whenever** she calls, the landlord is busy.
(Every time she calls the landlord, he/she is busy).
- Call me **whenever** you need something.
(Call me any time you need something).
- **Whenever** he comes home, he acts like a hungry dog.
(Every time he comes home, he acts like that).
- **Whenever** I go to sleep early, I have extraordinary dreams.
(Every time I go to sleep early, I have these dreams).

Examples of Wherever

- **Wherever** you go in the world, remember where you came from and where you are going.
(Anywhere you go in the world, remember those things).
- With a good education in English, **wherever** you go, you will have a good time.
(If you are taught well, you will have a good time anywhere).
- **Wherever** we put the TV in the room, the reception is bad.
(Anywhere we put the TV, the reception is bad).
- You can put the present that she gave you **wherever** you want, just don't let her know if you put it in the trash.
(You can put that present anywhere).

Examples of Whoever

- **Whoever** broke the vase, can you please replace it?
(Any specific person who broke the vase, please replace it).
- **Whoever** goes to the shop, please don't steal anything.
(Any one or more of the people, who will go to the shop, don't steal anything).
- **Whoever** it was that knocked on the door last night must have been drunk, because they dropped twenty dollars as they ran away.
(The unknown person who knocked on the door dropped twenty dollars).
- **Whoever** you just spoke to, she must have some special powers, because you look like you fell in love.
(The unknown person who you spoke with must have some special powers).

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Examples of Whichever

- You can drive **whichever** of the cars you want.
(You can choose to drive any of the cars).
- **Whichever** dress I wear tonight, I'm worried that my butt will look fat. What do you think?
(Person is worried that the person's butt looks fat in any of the selected dresses).
- **Whichever** road you take to Rome, you will need to drive carefully.
(There are a number of roads to take, and it is necessary to drive carefully on any one that you take).
- **Whichever** pizza you ordered for her, it must have had some very delicious ingredients.
(The pizza that was ordered from those available had some special ingredients).

Examples of However

- You can dress **however** you want for the party, it's not formal.
(You can dress the way that you want for the party).
- **However** much she eats, she never puts on weight.
(It doesn't matter how much she eats, she never gets fat).
- You can do it **however** you like, I don't really care as long as it gets done.
(You can do it any way that you want).
- **However** rich they may be, it still isn't enough for them.
(It doesn't matter how rich they may be).