

***Which* or *Who*: What's the difference?**

Lesson Objectives:

1. Understand the use of ***which*** and ***who***.
2. Use the *Hong Kong Corpus of Addresses by Governors and Chief Executives* as a tool for inductive learning.
3. Practise writing skills.

Length: approx. 30 mins

Target students: Advanced Secondary School Learners; Learners of English for Academic Purposes

Activity 1

You will use the **HK Corpus of Addresses by Governors and Chief Executives** and identify the difference between ***which*** and ***who***.

Follow the steps below:

1. Go to <http://rcpce.engl.polyu.edu.hk/index.html>
2. Click on **KWIC** for the *HK Corpus of Addresses by Governors and Chief Executives*
3. Go to the search box and enter the word ***which***
4. Look at the first 20 results: what precedes ***which*** in each sentence? What pattern(s) do you notice?
5. Discuss in pairs.
6. Repeat the same process by searching ***who***.

Activity 1.1 – Define the functions of ***which*** and ***who***.

Which refers to _____

Who refers to _____

Activity 2

The following statements have been retrieved and adapted from the above corpus.

Spot the errors with the use of **who** and **which**.

1. I shall be looking for support from all those **who** are seriously committed to a cleaner, greener Hong Kong in carrying this through.
2. That said, whatever our efforts to keep the elderly with their families and to provide sheltered housing for the older age groups, there will also be some **which** require a degree of institutional care.
3. Wherever I go, those civil servants, **which** work most directly for the public, talk of the difference it has made to their clients and to their own job satisfaction.
4. It is government officials **who** are responsible for developing policy, framing legislation and presenting taxation and spending proposals.
5. The aim of the proposed measures will be to assist in the timely identification of bad, imprudent, or fraudulent management, **which** can threaten the health and reputation of the system as a whole.
6. This membership will enable the Regional council to formulate policies **which** give due weight to the needs and interests of the area.
7. We need a long-term solution **which** deals with the problem at its source.
8. We must give full regard to other relevant factors, including the need to ensure that any changes **which** might be introduced do not disrupt the steady progress we have been making, nor the stability **who** is so important to our community.

Activity 3

Read the following statements and re-write them by using *which* or *who*.

1. We need a new CEO to look after the company. This CEO will need to revise our vision.

2. Commercial Banking's profits are growing. These profits will enhance the health of our internal economy.

3. This has resulted in low levels of unemployment. This unemployment must be widely envied in other parts of the world.

4. We need a better care system for those over 70. The people in this age bracket tend to be more frail and to have a greater need of assistance.
