

911, What's Your Emergency?



Category: ✓ General English

Topic: ✓ Emergency

Media: ✓ Audio

Level: ✓ B2-C1 Upper-Intermediate / Advanced

Grammar: ✓ Compound Relative Pronouns

Learning Focus: ✓ Grammar, Listening, Speaking, Vocabulary



Task 1

Put a check mark next to the reasons that someone would call 911. Next, answer the question.

1. There is a fire.
2. You witnessed a burglary.
3. Your brother took your cell phone.
4. There is a serious car accident.
5. You witnessed an attack.
6. Your food was not delivered on time.
7. Someone is choking.
8. There was a kidnapping.
9. A store didn't have your correct shoe size.
10. You saw someone pass out.

Have you ever witnessed or been involved in any of these emergencies before? What happened?



Task 2

Choose a compound relative pronoun from the box to fill in the blanks. Some words are used more than once. Next, answer the question.

whoever / whatever / wherever / whenever / whichever / however

1. She locks the door she leaves the house.
2. Tell comes to go away.

3. Here are two books. _____ one you choose, you are sure to enjoy it.
4. _____ much he works out, he is still overweight.
5. I bring my pepper spray with me _____ I go.
6. _____ I ate yesterday is still hurting my stomach.
7. Here is a black pen and a red pen. Take _____ one you need.
8. _____ long it takes, they will not give up.

What would you do if you needed to call 911 but your phone battery was dead?



Task 3

Listen to the audio and answer the questions.



1. Who calls 911, and what is the emergency?
2. What information does the 911 operator need first?
3. What does the operator tell George to do? What was the result?
4. Who is coming to help? When will they arrive?
5. The operator says, "you are in safe hands". What do you think this means?
6. Why do you think it is important to stay on the line with a 911 operator?



Task 4

Answer the questions relating to the topic.

1. What are some important things to remember when calling 911?
2. What information is not very important to share when calling 911? Why shouldn't you include all the little details?

3. Have you ever been involved in an emergency in which someone had to give CPR or perform the Heimlich maneuver?

4. If you hear someone say, "hang on for dear life", what do you think they mean?

5. Why do you think the emergency number in the United States is called "9-1-1"? What is the emergency number in your country?

GRAMMAR REVIEW

Compound Relative Pronouns

Adding -ever to question words changes their meaning to "it doesn't matter how / what / which / when / where / who".

- who** + **-ever** = **whoever** (it doesn't matter who)
what + **-ever** = **whatever** (it doesn't matter what)
where + **-ever** = **wherever** (it doesn't matter where)
when + **-ever** = **whenever** (it doesn't matter when)
which + **-ever** = **whichever** (it doesn't matter which one)
how + **-ever** = **however** (it doesn't matter how/in what way)

"Whoever / whatever / wherever / whenever / whichever / however" are called **compound relative** pronouns. They can be used as subjects, objects, and adverbs, or as conjunctions to join a clause (partial sentence) to the rest of the sentence. **However** = **in any way**

Examples:

How should I do your makeup?
 You can do it **however** you want. (=adverb modifying "do")

- **Whatever** = **any thing (unlimited choices)**

Examples:

What should I do tomorrow?
 You can do **whatever** you feel like. (=object of action "do")

- **Whichever** = **any one from a limited set**

Examples:

Which T-shirt should I choose?
 Choose **whichever** you prefer. (=object of action "choose")

- **Whenever = any time**

Examples:

When should I come to your apartment?

Come **whenever** you want. (=adverb that modifies “come”)

- **Wherever = any place**

Examples:

Where should I live?

You can live **wherever** you like. (=adverb that modifies “live”)

- **Whoever = any person**

Examples:

Who should I invite to the Christmas party?

You can invite **whoever** you want. (=object of action “invite”)

NOTE: “**Whoever**” can also be used as a subject when the identity of the subject is not important or unknown. For instance, if you say, “**Whoever** left their baby on the playground is very irresponsible!”, you are saying that the person who left their baby is very irresponsible.

NOTES

A series of horizontal dashed lines for writing notes.