

GENETIC ENGINEERING: *whoever, whatever, whenever, wherever*

THINGS TO LOOK OUT FOR

- The main grammar focus is on the pronouns / adverbs *whoever, whatever, whenever* or *wherever*, used to express *it doesn't matter who / what / when / where*, etc. and *anyone / anything / anytime / anyplace*.
- Latin American Spanish and Brazilian Portuguese have no direct equivalents to some of these pronouns / adverbs and only uncommon, formal equivalents to others. Sometimes the idea is conveyed by a basic pronoun / adverb, equivalent to *who, where*, etc., followed by a subjunctive. Consequently, students may have difficulty remembering these words and their use, avoid them, and substitute them with transliterations such as *Who has broken it will pay*. ✗ for *Whoever broke it . . .*, or *Always that I go there, I have fun*. ✗ for *Whenever I go there . . .*

ANSWERS

EXERCISE 1

- 1 **Whoever** (refers to a person)
- 2 **whatever** (refers to nouns—discoveries)
- 3 **whenever** (refers to "every time that . . .")
- 4 **Wherever** (refers to places) / **Whenever** (refers to time)
- 5 **whoever** (refers to people)

EXERCISE 2

- 1 **Whenever** I see pictures of starving children,
 . . .
- 2 **You can't** escape the effects of air pollution, . . .
- 3 **No one** deserves to earn \$1 million a year, . . .
- 4 **Whatever** the rate of divorce in my country, . . .
- 5 . . . **whenever** I can find it.
- 6 I always drink bottled water, . . .

EXERCISE 3

- 1 . . . **whenever** someone sees my name now, they'll think of the scientist who got it all wrong. (every time that ➔ whenever)
- 2 **Whoever** did the research, the results were going to be wrong. (It doesn't matter who ➔ Whoever)
- 3 **Whoever** repaired that piece of equipment, they should lose their job. (It doesn't matter who ➔ Whoever)
- 4 **Whatever** agency you use, they always send untrained people. (It doesn't matter what ➔ Whatever)
- 5 . . . **the company is trying to save money wherever** it can, . . . (every place ➔ wherever)
- 6 . . . **whatever** we scientists say is ignored. (anything ➔ whatever)

PERSONALIZE IT!

- Ask the students to list a few things that annoy them, or that they don't like, using a *wh-ever* word in their sentences, e.g. *I get very angry whenever I see a person dropping litter. / I can't stand rap music, whoever is performing it.* Ask volunteers to read their sentences out to the class and see how many students agree with them.
- The students can work in pairs to write a conversation between a couple who are very much in love, using *wh-ever* words, e.g.

Whatever you do, never leave me.

I won't! Wherever you go, I'll go with you.

Yes, and whenever you need me, I'll make sure I'm there.

To make this more competitive, tell the students they have to write a conversation of no more than twelve lines, and the object is to correctly use as many *wh-ever* words in it as they can (without it sounding totally unnatural). To check their work, ask pairs to read their conversations out while the rest of the class counts the *wh-ever* words in each one.

GENETIC ENGINEERING

EXERCISE 1

Complete these sentences with *whoever*, *whatever*, *whenever* or *wherever*.

Whatever..... you do, don't tell them you've had a genetic test!

- 1 discovers a cure for cancer will become very rich and famous.
- 2 The government is stopping the funding for the research, the discoveries they've made.
- 3 I turn cold I hear people talking about cloning.
- 4 GM crops are grown, the seeds always blow into other fields and contaminate other plants.
- 5 I don't believe the findings in that report, the authors are.

EXERCISE 2

Complete these sentences using the phrases in the box.

- deserves to earn \$1 million a year
- always drink bottled water
- the rate of divorce in my country
- can't escape the effects of air pollution
- see pictures of starving children
- I can find it.

- 1 Whenever I I have to turn the TV off.
- 2 You wherever you live.
- 3 No one whoever they are.
- 4 Whatever I still want to get married.
- 5 I try to eat organic food whenever
- 6 I wherever I'm traveling.

EXERCISE 3

Read this conversation. Rewrite the underlined sentences below, using an appropriate *wh-ever* word.

Pablo: This is ridiculous, Sven. You haven't spoken to me for a week.

Sven: What do you expect? It doesn't matter what you say or do, I can't forget that article you published.

Pablo: It was only disagreeing with your research.

Sven: I know, but (1) every time that someone sees my name now, they'll think of the scientist who got it all wrong.

Pablo: There was a problem with the equipment. (2) It doesn't matter who did the research, the results were going to be wrong.

Sven: I suppose you're right. (3) It doesn't matter who repaired that piece of equipment, they should lose their job.

Pablo: I agree. The situation now is awful. (4) It doesn't matter what agency you use, they always send untrained people.

Sven: Mm, I suppose they're cheaper. Karen says that (5) the company is trying to save money every place it can, but it's crazy if they don't get the right staff.

Pablo: You're right, but (6) anything we scientists say is ignored. You know that . . .

Whatever you say or do, I can't forget that article you published.

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6