The **interrogative pronouns** are words like *who, which, what* etc. As their name suggests, they are used to introduce questions.

- What is this?
- Who are you?
- Which do you prefer?

**Which and what**

In most cases, both *which* and *what* are possible with little difference of meaning.

- **What language** do they speak in Brazil? OR **Which language** do they speak in Brazil?

*Which* is preferred in cases where the speaker is thinking about a limited number of choices. *What* is used in cases where the speaker is thinking about an unlimited number of choices.

- **Which** is your favorite color? (The number of colors are somewhat limited.)
- **What** is your favorite number? (Here the number of choices is unlimited.)

The interrogative pronouns also act as determiners.

- **Which writer** do you like best? (Here the interrogative pronoun *which* acts like an adjective modifying the noun writer.)

When used like this they are sometimes called **interrogative adjectives**.

Before a pronoun or a noun with a determiner (e.g. the, my this), we use *which of*. *What* and *who* are not used with *of*.

- **Which of these shirts** are yours? (NOT *What of these shirts are yours?*

When interrogative pronouns are used to introduce **adjective clauses**, they are called **relative pronouns**.

- I know a girl **who writes good stories**. (Here the interrogative *who* is used to introduce the relative clause ‘who writes good stories’.)

The interrogative pronouns can also be used to introduce **noun clauses**.

- I don’t know **who did this**.

Here the interrogative *who* introduces the noun clause **who did this**.