The words *whoever, whatever, whichever, however, whenever* and *wherever* are called compound relative pronouns. These are used to mean ‘it doesn’t matter who/what/which etc.’

A compound relative pronoun has a double function. It acts as a subject, object or adverb in its own clause; it also acts as a conjunction joining its clause to the rest of the sentence.

**Whoever** comes to the door, ask them to wait.
**Whatever** happens, happens for good.
**Whoever** phoned just now was very rude.
Don’t open the door **whoever** they are.
**Wherever** you go, I will follow you.

Stay cool, **whatever** happens.
**Whichever** of them you marry, you will land in trouble.
**However** much she eats, she never gains weight.
**Whenever** I go to Bangalore, I try to spend a few days with my grandparents.

**Informal uses**

In an informal style, these conjunctions are sometimes used as short answers.

‘When should I come?’ ‘**Whenever**’. (= Whenever you like)
‘Tea or coffee?’ ‘**Whichever**’. (= I don’t mind.)

**Whenever** can suggest repetition, in the sense of ‘every time that’.

**Whenever** I go to Singapore, I stay with my sister. (= Every time that I go to Singapore, I stay with my sister)
**Whenever** I see you, I feel happy.