Whoever, whatever, whenever, wherever – Pronouns / Adverbs

These words are used to express when it doesn’t matter who, what, when, where, etc., and anyone, anything, anytime and anywhere.

Form:

Wh- ever + subject + verb or Wh- ever + verb

1. **Whoever** = used for people when their identity is not yet known:

   Whoever wins the election is going to have a difficult job getting the economy back on its feet.

   Used to indicate that the actual identify of the person who does something will not affect a situation:

   I can’t stand Reggaton, whoever is performing it.

   Used in questions as a way of saying strongly ‘who’, usually when you are surprised about something:

   That’s just crazy! Whoever suggested such a thing?

2. **Whatever** = used with nouns (things) to refer to anything or everything, that something is the case in all circumstances:

   Jose is good at whatever he does.

   She runs about 15km a day whatever the weather.

3. **Whenever** = time

   Used to refer to any time or every time that something happens or is true:

   She always went to La Vina for lunch whenever she was downtown.

   I get really angry whenever I see someone dropping litter in the street.

   Used to refer to a time that you do not know or are not sure about:

   Pedro got married in 2008, or whenever it was.

4. **Wherever** = used for place to indicate that something happens or is true in any place or situation, when you indicate that you do not know where a place is or in questions to make a point:

   I enjoy myself wherever I am.

   Wherever is the bank? I can’t find it on the map.

   Wherever have you been?
Exercises:

a. Complete these sentences with whoever, whatever, whenever, wherever:

_______________ you do, don’t tell them you’ve lost your job.

_______________ I think of the dentist it makes me feel really anxious.

_______________ discovers a cure for cancer will be very famous.

The government is stopping the funding for the research, _________________ the discoveries they’ve made.

I don’t believe the findings in that report _________________ the authors are.

_______________ I see operations on the TV it turns me right off having surgery.

b. Complete these sentences using the phrases below:

• deserves to earn $1 million a year.
• always drinks 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.

Whenever I ____________________________ I have to turn the TV off.

You ____________________________ wherever you live.

No-one ____________________________ whoever they are.

Whatever ____________________________ I still want to get married.

I try to eat healthy food whenever ____________________________.

I ____________________________ wherever I’m travelling.