



PRONOUN CASES

Developed by Mike Ward, South Campus Learning Center, Communications Lab 04-14-05
Permission to copy and use is granted to all FCCJ staff provided this copyright label is displayed.
For more information, visit the Learning Services web site:
www.fccj.org/campuses/sputh/learning_cent/learning_cent.htm

The following are some basic rules concerning pronouns. Pronouns use different forms depending upon the position they occupy in the sentence. Two main types of pronouns are **subject pronouns** and **object pronouns**.

SUBJECTIVE CASE

I
you
he/she/it
we
they

OBJECTIVE CASE

me
you
him/her/it
us
them

Pronouns in the **subjective case** may be used in two ways:

1. as the **subject of the verb**:

Ex: **We** went to the park. (**We** is the subject of the verb went.)

He is my uncle. (**He** is the subject of the verb is.)

They write as well as I. (By placing the verb *write* after the pronoun I, the I will be the subject of the verb write. I, not me, is used correctly--They write as well as I write.)

2. as a word that **replaces the name of the subject**:

Ex: It was **she** who wrote the novel. (**She** means the same as the subject It.)

The man in the funny green suit is **he**. (**He** means the same as the subject man.)

For all other purposes, **objective case** pronouns are used. Remember, the pronouns in the objective case can never be used as the subject, nor can they ever be used to replace the subject.

Pronouns in the **objective case** may be used:

1. as the object of the preposition:

Ex: John went to the movies with **her** and **me**. (**Her** and **me** are the objects of the preposition with.)*

2. as the object of the verb:

Ex: Tom chose Jane and **them**. (Jane and **them** follow the verb *chose*, making Jane and **them** the objects of the verb chose.)*

***Hint:** If you are not sure what pronoun to use, try each pronoun by itself in the sentence. For example, "John went to the movies with me" sounds correct. In the second example, leave out the extra name. "Tom chose them" sounds correct. The correct pronoun will be the one that sounds right.

EXERCISES FOR CHOOSING THE RIGHT PRONOUN

Directions: In each sentence, circle the correct pronoun.

1. The conversation is strictly between her and (I/me).
2. The gift was given to (us/we) three sisters.
3. I wanted to tell my mother about (he/him).
4. It was (he/him) who has caused so much trouble.
5. Did you see (she/her) and Terry at the party?
6. Was it (he/him) who made a perfect score on the CLAST?
7. The mayor gave my sister and (me/I) an award for outstanding penmanship.
8. We ran into the car which belongs to (her/she).
9. (We/Us) students have had a hard time understanding the instructor.
10. (She/Her) and (I/me) went to the store together to buy groceries.
11. In the movie, Harrison Ford leaves (her/she).
12. No one could have been better prepared for the exam than (he/him).
13. (He/Him) and (she/her) are getting married in July.
14. The grading of the papers was up to (me/I).
15. Jonathan asked (us/we) if we were going to the theater.
16. Please tell (she/her) by tomorrow if you are going on vacation.
17. There are a lot of problems between (she/her) and her parents.
18. The bus dropped my brother and (I/me) off at the airport.
19. When will you come visit (us/we)?
20. I do not want to go to the museum with (he/him).

ANSWERS FOR THE EXERCISE

1. me
2. us
3. him
4. he
5. her
6. he
7. me
8. her
9. We
10. She/I
11. her
12. he
13. He/she
14. me
15. us
16. her
17. her
18. me
19. us
20. him