

# Pronouns

- A pronoun is a word used in place of a noun.
- A personal pronoun is chosen based on the way it is used in the sentence.  
A subject pronoun is used in the subject of a sentence and after a linking verb.

EXAMPLES: **He** is a chemist. The chemist is **he**.

An object pronoun is used after an action verb or a preposition.

EXAMPLES: Jan gave **me** the gift. Jan gave the gift to **me**.

A possessive pronoun is used to show ownership of something.

EXAMPLES: The new car is **ours**. That is **our** car.

- Underline each pronoun.

1. Brian, do you have my ticket to the play?
2. Just between you and me, I want to go with them.
3. Carol, will you help me carry our trunk?
4. May I go with you?
5. We saw him standing in line to go to a movie.
6. Just be sure to find Carol and me.
7. We will be ready when they come for us.
8. She sent this box of frozen steaks to Andrea and me.
9. She asked you and me to be on her bowling team.
10. We saw them go into the building on the corner.
11. Last week we sent flowers to our sick friend.
12. He must choose their dinner.
13. She is my English instructor.
14. They have never invited us to go with them.
15. The first-place winner is she.
16. Can he compete against you?
17. She made the dinner for us.
18. Liz and I are going on vacation in June.
19. Where is your umbrella?
20. Sharon gave me a book to read.
21. Do you know where our cottage is?
22. If I lend you my car, will you take care of it?
23. I gave him my word that we would visit her.
24. When they saw us fishing, Bob and Diane changed their clothes.
25. Your toes are peeking through your socks.
26. Marie showed us how to fasten her bike to our car.

**Songwriters:** Harrell, Thaddis Laphonia; Knowles, Beyonce;  
Nash, Terius; Stewart, Christopher;

All the single ladies, all the single ladies  
All the single ladies, all the single ladies  
All the single ladies, all the single ladies  
All the single ladies

Now put your hands up  
Up in the club, we just broke up  
I'm doing my own little thing  
Decided to dip and now you wanna trip  
Cause another brother noticed me

I'm up on him, he up on me  
Don't pay him any attention  
Just cried my tears, for three good years  
Ya can't be mad at me

Cause if you liked it then you should have put a  
ring on it  
If you liked it then you shoulda put a ring on it  
Don't be mad once you see that he want it  
If you liked it then you shoulda put a ring on it  
Oh, oh, oh

If you liked it then you should have put a ring on it  
If you liked it then you shoulda put a ring on it  
Don't be mad once you see that he want it  
If you liked it then you shoulda put a ring on it

I got gloss on my lips, a man on my hips  
Got me tighter in my Dereon jeans  
Acting up, drink in my cup  
I can care less what you think

I need no permission, did I mention  
Don't pay him any attention  
Cause you had your turn and now you gonna learn  
What it really feels like to miss me

Cause if you liked it then you should have put a  
ring on it  
If you liked it then you shoulda put a ring on it  
Don't be mad once you see that he want it  
If you liked it then you shoulda put a ring on it  
Oh, oh, oh

If you liked it then you should have put a ring on it  
If you liked it then you shoulda put a ring on it  
Don't be mad once you see that he want it  
If you liked it then you shoulda put a ring on it

I'm not that kind of girl  
Your love is what I prefer, what I deserve

Here's a man that makes me then takes me  
And delivers me to a destiny, to infinity and beyond  
Pull me into your arms, say I'm the one you own  
If you don't, you'll be alone  
And like a ghost Ill be gone

All the single ladies, all the single ladies  
All the single ladies, all the single ladies  
All the single ladies, all the single ladies  
All the single ladies  
Now put your hands up, oh, oh, oh

Cause if you liked it then you should have put a ring on it  
If you liked it then you shoulda put a ring on it  
Don't be mad once you see that he want it  
If you liked it then you shoulda put a ring on it  
Oh, oh, oh

If you liked it then you should have put a ring on it  
If you liked it then you shoulda put a ring on it  
Don't be mad once you see that he want it  
If you liked it then you shoulda put a ring on it  
Oh, oh, oh

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**PRONOUN USAGE  
STUDENT HANDOUT**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
DATE \_\_\_\_\_ HOUR \_\_\_\_\_

**THE DOERS.** These are the subject pronouns: I, he, she, it, you, we, they

Use these words:

- As the subject of the sentence: Mary and I went to the school play.
- After the being words (am, is, are, was, were, be, been): This is **he**.  
**Note:** This rule is formal; however, it follows standard usage.  
**Formal:** It is I.      **Casual:** It's me.

**THE RECEIVERS.** These are the object pronouns: me, him, her, it, you, us, them

Use these words:

- After action words (verbs): Give **me** the answer.
- After prepositions (of, to, in, for, etc.): This gift is for **her**. That one is from **me**.

**THE OWNERS.** These are the possessive pronouns: my, mine, his, her, hers, its, your, yours, our, ours, their, theirs

Use these words:

- To show ownership: The book is **mine**. **My** book is over there.

**THE SELFISH:** These are the reflexive pronouns, and they all end with "self" or "selves": myself, yourself, himself, herself, itself, ourselves, yourselves, themselves

Use these words:

- To stress or emphasize who did it: She made the cake all by **herself**. (No one helped her.)
- To refer to the subject: Sue saved the last piece of chocolate for **herself**. (Not for me!)

**NOTES**

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**Review of the Pronouns:****Types of Pronouns**

Subject: I, you, he, she, it, we, they

Object: me, you, him, her, it, us, them

Possessive: my, mine, your, yours, his, her, hers, its, our, ours, their, theirs

Interrogative: who, whom, whose, what, which, whoever, whomever, whosever, whatever, whichever

Declarative: this, that, these, those

Indefinite: everybody, somebody, anybody, nobody, everyone, someone, anyone, no one, each, either, neither  
none, all, some, most, any  
both, several, many, a few, a couple, etc.

**Directions: Find some common mistakes (see bottom of page for list) in the use of pronouns in this paragraph. Underline the error and then put correction in the space above that mistake.**

It is my favorite place to go for the Christmas holidays. Every time you go their, you make a wonderful memory. I will never forget the Christmas of '95. After being stuck for four unexpected hours in the Boston airport, we were flown in a small 40-seater up the length of the Green Mountains and into Burlington. As you landed, you could see stately evergreens bowed over with twelve inches of new snow and snowflakes still swirling in the outside lights. Lin and he were there waiting for me. It was great to see them. My two bags appeared promptly on the baggage carousel. That's always a relief. We were soon on our way to the white clapboard house in the hills of Calais.

They are a great couple to visit at Christmas, for they fill there home with tons of decorations, great scents, and happy conversation. I always look forward to spending this holdiaiy with Dave, Lin, and little Marty. She is a perfect hostess, serving great meals and pulling us all together in spirit as well as form. He makes sure there are logs burning merrily in the fireplace and soaring Mozart or Handel on the stereo. Marty's excitement lets you revisit the magic of Santa. Everyone bustles around trying to hide their gift wrapping and other secrets from prying eyes. This is Christmas to me.

The only member of the family that I'm not fond of is they're dog, Chet. Its a Corgie and grouchy! Chet always wants me to scratch his back. I don't mind, but when he has had enough, he turns his head and snaps. You could lose a finger that way. Others think Chet is okay, but their wrong. He has a mean streak. Your always on edge around him....

**Types of error:**

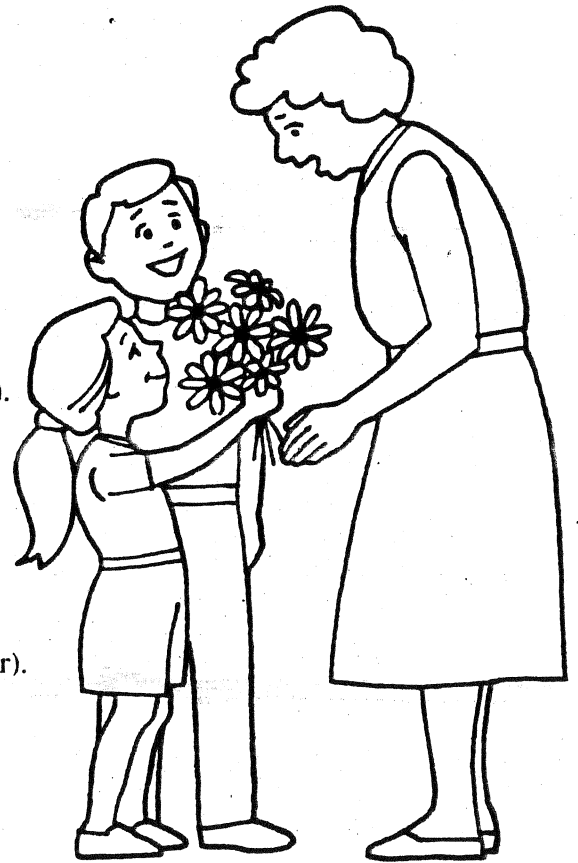
shift in person or number - changed point of view/number in the middle of the paragraph (how to avoid - don't use "you")  
indefinite reference - no antecedent can be found  
ambiguous reference - 2 possible antecedents  
vague reference - "it, this, that, which" used for an idea that is never actually stated

# Subject and Object Pronoun Practice

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Exercise 2:** Underline the correct pronouns from the choices given in the following sentences.

1. (We, Us) teachers are going on vacation together.
2. You may go with (we, us) teachers.
3. My sister and (I, me) are going to visit Grandma.
4. She can't go with (he, him) and (she, her).
5. They and (we, us) all did well on the project.
6. My father sent Debbie and (I, me) a card.
7. The teacher wrote detentions for (he, him) and (I, me).
8. A package arrived for (we, us) kids.
9. Don't hold this against Nicki and (I, me).
10. The teacher called on (he, him) and (she, her).
11. We are going to have pizza with the boys and (she, her).
12. (He, Him) and (I, me) are going out to dinner.
13. There was a tie between (she, her) and (he, him).
14. (He, Him) and the clerk got into an argument.
15. (They, Them) and the girls are following us.
16. The students and (I, me) are having a good day.
17. (We, Us) and (they, them) are playing the final match.
18. I wrote a letter to (he, him) and (she, her).
19. I like to ride with John and (she, her).
20. The principal was staring at (they, them) and (we, us).



# Subject and Object Pronouns

**When a pronoun is the subject of the sentence, it is called a subject pronoun.**

He caught the ball. (subject)

**When a pronoun is used as the direct object, indirect object, or object of a preposition, it is called an object pronoun.**

Sally saw us. (direct object)

Matthew throws us the balls. (indirect object)

Todd threw the ball to us. (object of preposition)

- Circle the pronouns used as subjects, and underline the pronouns used as objects.
  1. We will never allow it to happen in this school.
  2. After thinking about it carefully, he decided to go anyway.
  3. Even though the fruit was spoiled, the grocer sold it at the same price.
  4. They told us that this was going to be a very exciting day.
  5. I decided how the money should be spent.
  6. I wanted her to help me make the decision.
  7. She refused to do this.
  8. Harry wanted to buy it at the fruit stand.
  9. They did not stock apricot jam there.
  10. He told them about a grocery store located several blocks away.
  11. Mark told me about a movie.
  12. We chatted about it while walking to the store.
- Write a short paragraph about a visit to another country using at least three subject pronouns and three object pronouns.

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Worksheet 27A: PRONOUN CASES:  
NOMINATIVE EXERCISESubjective

Underline the correct pronoun in each sentence.

1. My brother and (I, me) rode our dirt bikes to the creek.
2. (They, Them) and my grandparents drove a camper out to San Francisco.
3. Frank and (he, him) play golf every Saturday morning.
4. It was either Gina or (she, her) who interviewed the applicants.
5. The new secretary in our office must be (he, him).
6. When (she, her) and her mother went shopping, they met her dad for lunch.
7. I hoped it was (she, her) who called to invite me to the dance.
8. The supervisors and (we, us) are going out to lunch today.
9. Glenn and (I, me) will change the goldfish's water.
10. I answered the phone by saying "This is (she, her)," when someone asked for me.
11. Ed and (I, me) want to get a paper route to earn extra money.
12. The umpire and (we, us) disagreed on several major calls.
13. I can't believe it was (he, him) who caused that fight at work.
14. Only Evan and (I, me) have been to Yosemite.
15. It had to be (they, them) who planned that surprise party at the office.
16. The neighbors and (we, us) are planning a Fourth of July barbecue.
17. David is confident that the winner will be (he, him).
18. The Endicotts and (we, us) always have a Christmas dinner together.
19. Shannon and (he, him) are good friends.
20. It was (we, us) you heard coming in late last night.

**Worksheet 29A: PRONOUN CASES:** DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

**OBJECTIVE EXERCISE**

Select an object pronoun from the list below for each blank in the following sentences.

me, her, him, us, them

1. Did you see her and \_\_\_\_\_ at the movies?
2. The elephant liked \_\_\_\_\_ to spray water on him.
3. Will you please leave \_\_\_\_\_ a message?
4. A counselor named Barbara gave \_\_\_\_\_ a five-week-old kitten.
5. I named \_\_\_\_\_ Boo-Kay after my counselors, Boo (Barbara) and Kay.
6. When I saw \_\_\_\_\_ in the jars of formaldehyde, the two-headed creatures frightened me.
7. He shared his secret with \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
8. Leave Elaine and \_\_\_\_\_ alone.
9. That dress fits both Ginger and \_\_\_\_\_.
10. I remember \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ very well.

Underline the correct pronoun in each sentence.

11. Don't tell mother and (he, him) your surprise.
- 12, 13. Please share with Peter and (she, her) that story you told (I, me).
14. Ask Erica and (she, her) all your questions about the car.
- 15, 16. Should mother offer (he, him) and (I, me) any more dessert?
17. Give your father and (I, me) a fair chance.
18. Mrs. Harrison's interview panel included Jerry and (I, me).
19. Mayor Feinstein presented the astronaut and (she, her) keys to the City of San Francisco.
20. You ought to check with the Sakeleris family and (they, them) before you all arrive for a swim.
21. Don't tell Gary and (I, me) we're too late!



## Worksheet 22: PRONOUN- ANTECEDENT AGREEMENT—EXPLANATION

### PRONOUN-ANTECEDENT

A pronoun is a word such as I, YOU, HE, SHE, or IT that takes the place of a noun. The antecedent of a pronoun is the word to which the pronoun refers.

*Catherine* is a prima ballerina.

*She* is the best dancer I have seen.

*She* is a pronoun referring to *Catherine*, the noun in the previous sentence.

ANTE means before, and the antecedent usually comes before the pronoun. Sometimes, however, the order is reversed and you have to figure out just where the antecedent is.

Because *he* is my eldest son, I place great responsibility on Carson.

### PRONOUN-ANTECEDENT AGREEMENT

A pronoun should always agree with its antecedent in gender and number. Gender refers to use of a masculine or feminine pronoun. Number refers to singular or plural.

John prepared *his* favorite meal for the family.

Elizabeth decided to challenge *her* supervisor's order.

Brian and Sarah really like *their* new school.

In the first example, HIS is the pronoun used to refer to John, a male. In the second example, HER is the feminine pronoun used to refer to Elizabeth. Brian and Sarah are two people, so a plural pronoun must be used. In English, we have no masculine or feminine plural pronouns, so THEY is used for feminine plural, masculine plural, and both feminine and masculine plural.

As soon as a young person applies for a position at this store, the supervisor calls *him* for an appointment.

When the gender of the antecedent is unknown, as it is in "a person," English traditionally uses the masculine pronouns to refer to the antecedent. "She" or "her" may be used as an alternative to male pronouns when the antecedent is unknown. You could say "him or her," "he or she," "his or her," but it is a bit long, especially if you have to write it several times.

### SINGULAR INDEFINITE PRONOUNS

Indefinite pronouns are always singular. Other pronouns in the sentences must agree with these *singular* indefinite pronouns. It is worth your time to memorize them:

each	one	nobody	somebody
every	everyone	anyone	either
everybody	anybody	neither	no one
someone			

**Worksheet 23A: PRONOUN-  
ANTECEDENT AGREEMENT—EXERCISE**

Read the following sentences aloud. They are all correct in agreement but they may sound strange to you. All of the pronouns that refer to the singular indefinite pronouns are singular. Notice the gender (masculine or feminine) that is used in each sentence.

1. Each person in my class entered something of *his* own making or raising into the county fair.
2. Every teacher in the school told *his* or *her* class about us.
3. Either of the girls who entered the jam and jelly contest could have won with *her* creation.
4. Neither of the boys who raised cattle planned to sell or slaughter *his* steer.
5. One of the kids named *his* pig Wilbur after his favorite character in *Charlotte's Web*.
6. Everyone in the eleventh-grade class was especially proud of *his* or *her* own participation.
7. Why did everybody decide to support *his* teacher's impossible idea?
8. There was no one in the whole class who could think of a time when *his* own idea had been laughed at or ignored by the teacher.
9. Besides, nobody wanted *her* failure to participate to break the perfect plan.
10. We all agreed that anyone who tackled the raising of an animal had *his* hands full for months.
11. My father said that anybody who entered would receive *his* own prize of personal accomplishment.
12. Someone at the newspaper wrote about us. In *her* words we were "a most unusual group of young people."
13. Our teacher said at the fair, "Somebody had better take a picture of us, and *he'd* better do it before I cry!"

# 11

**Worksheet 23B: PRONOUN-  
ANTECEDENT AGREEMENT—EXERCISE**

Indicate proper agreement of pronoun and antecedent by underlining the correct choice in each of the following sentences.

1. Any man who climbs that mountain is risking (his, their) life foolishly.
2. Several women at my dad's trucking company handle (her, their) rigs better than many of the men.
3. A superior student, such as you have described, would not jeopardize (his, their) future by cheating on a final exam.
4. Someone in Sharon's P.E. class left (her, their) shoes on the court.
5. Either of the boys might have held (his, their) breath for another minute.
6. Everyone at baseball camp agreed to send (his, their) buddy a school picture in the fall.
7. I find no one who has tattooed (himself, themselves) in here.
- 8, 9, 10. Each bulb in my garden surprises me as (it, they) (produce, produces) (its, their) own special surprises.

Construct from the following phrases sentences with at least ten words. Be sure that the sentence contains at least one pronoun that refers to the antecedent given. (Remember that verbs in the present tense must also agree with their subject.)

EXAMPLE: A few of the boys

A few of the boys forgot *their* towels

11. Either Mary or Sylvia
12. Both of my best friends
13. No one in this dormitory
14. Every person that I talk to
15. Anyone who wants to

