

PERSONAL PRONOUNS

A personal pronoun is a word that takes the place of a noun (the name of a person, place, thing, or idea). Pronouns have different forms according to how they are used in a sentence. Their function or use determines which form or case will be used in a sentence. The three cases of personal pronouns are nominative, objective, and possessive.

	Singular	Plural
	Nominative	
First Person	I	We
Second Person	You	You
Third Person	He, She, It	They
	Objective	
First Person	Me	Us
Second Person	You	You
Third Person	Him, Her, It	Them
	Possessive	
First Person	My, Mine	Our, Ours
Second Person	Your, Yours	Your Yours
Third Person	His, Hers, Its	Theirs

Nominative case: The nominative case is needed when a personal pronoun is used as (1) the subject of a verb or as a (2) predicate nominative.

Examples:

I like football. (*I* is the subject of the verb *like*.)

The captains of the team are he and I. (*He* and *I* are predicate nominatives, renaming *captains*.)

Objective case: The objective case is used when the personal pronoun is (1) the direct object of a verb, (2) an indirect object of a verb, or (3) the object of a preposition.

Examples:

The little boy hit her with a rock. (*Her* is the direct object of the verb *hit*.)

John gave her candy for Valentine's Day. (*Her* is the indirect object of the verb *gave*; *candy* is its direct object.)

John gave the candy to her. (*Her* is the object of the preposition *to*.)

Possessive case: Possessive case personal pronouns show possession. Note: Possessive pronouns never use an apostrophe.

Examples:

We rode in her car.

The car is hers.

Agreement: A personal pronoun must agree with its antecedent (the word it renames) in (1) gender (masculine, feminine, or neuter [Only in third person, singular, is gender relevant.]), (2) number (singular or plural), and (3) person.

Examples:

The girl washed her hands.

The girls washed their hands.

Each boy washed his hands.

Read the following sentences, identifying the pronouns. Then determine if those personal pronouns are used correctly. If not, correct the sentence.

1. Neither Mary nor Barbara has put much effort into their campaign.
2. Before a student can take a photography course, they must take a course in art.
3. The new team members include Susan, Jack, and me.
4. Astute political observers like you and me know the truth.
5. When I need a computer, would you let me use your's?
6. The discussion started by Joe continued between him and I for about two hours.
7. My parents had both gone to Auburn University, but my sister and me chose to go to Troy University.
8. The tennis pro should give each player individualized instruction and help them with their basic strokes.
9. This tennis racquet must be yours because mine has a little notch on its handle for every match I've won.
10. Jim told Mark that his outlook on life would improve if he would stop watching talk shows on television.