

**GRAMMAR REVIEW PACKET 8**

**Pronouns – Case and Reference**

**Overview**

- **Pronoun Case** (pages 2-11)

--**Nominative Case** – used as subjects, as subjective complements, and in comparisons using than/as.

**Examples:** *He is my friend.* – as subject  
*It was she on the phone.* – as subjective complements  
*Mary is taller than she.* – in comparison

--**Objective Case** – used as objects, such as direct objects, indirect objects, or objects of prepositions.

**Examples:** *John kicked him.* – direct object  
*Mom gave me money.* – indirect object  
*Sue sold the house (to them).* – object of preposition

--**Possessive Case** – used to show ownership.

**Examples:** *Karen had her hair cut yesterday.*  
*Those books are theirs.*  
*Roger will mail my letter for me.*  
*The cat caught its paw in the fence.*

- **Pronoun Reference** (pages 12-13)

A pronoun must agree with its antecedent in person, number, and gender.

**Examples:** Karen talked to Paul about her plans.  
 (antecedent)

Mom and Dad talked to Paul about their plans.  
 (antecedent)

## Pronoun Case

In the following sentences, notice the different forms of pronouns:

*She and I work in the same elementary school*  
*Mom assigns extra yard duty [to her and me].*  
*Tim gave his book to my sister.*

If you examine these sentences, you will notice that she and I are subjects of the first sentence, that her and me, in the second sentence, are objects of a preposition, and that his and my show possession in the third sentence. A pronoun may have one form when it is a subject, a different form when it is an object, and still another form when it is possessive.

Some pronouns change their form according to the way that they are used in sentences. This difference in form is called case. Pronouns used as subjects, as subjective complements, or in comparisons using than/as are in the nominative case. Pronouns used as objects are in the objective case. Pronouns used to show ownership are in the possessive case.

Listed below are the nominative, objective, and possessive pronouns:

NOMINATIVE		OBJECTIVE		POSSESSIVE	
Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural
I	we	me	us	my, mine	our, ours
you	you	you	you	your, yours	your, yours
he	they	him	them	his	their, theirs
she		her			
it		it			
who	who	whom	whom	whose	whose

**Please note** that you and it are nominative **and** objective pronouns. Her is objective **and** possessive.

### NOMINATIVE CASE

**I. As subjects:** The pronouns I, you, he, she, it, we, they, and who are used as subjects of verbs.

**Example:** *(She, Her) was getting tired.*

The correct choice is *she* because it is the subject of the verb was getting.

*She was getting tired.*

*Is (he, him) going to the store?*

(Change a question to a sentence: *(He, Him) is going to the store.*

The correct choice is *he* because it is the subject of the verb is going.

*He is going to the store.*

**Exercise 1:** *Circle the correct pronoun.*

1. Where is (she, her)?
2. In September (we, us) are going on a cruise to Mexico.

3. Did (he) him) win the contest?
4. Should (they) them) register before Monday?
5. The sponsors will decide if (I)me) should get a uniform.

**Errors** in nominative pronoun case sometimes occur when the subject is compound—when it consists of two subjects joined by and or or. To illustrate, “*Them drove to Tampa*” would sound incorrect to most people. However, “*Joanna and them drove to Tampa*” does not sound incorrect to some people because of the compound subject.

You can avoid making this error in a compound subject by taking out and/or and trying each part of the subject alone with the verb.

**Example:** *Joanna and (they, them) drove to Tampa.*  
 (Joanna drove to Tampa, and they drove to Tampa.)  
*Joanna and they drove to Tampa.*

Occasionally, you may have to change the tense of the verb when checking each subject separately.

**Example:** *Joanna and (I, me) are driving to Tampa.*  
 (Joanna is driving to Tampa, and I am driving to Tampa.)  
*Joanna and I are driving to Tampa.*

**Exercise 2:** *Circle the correct pronoun. Be sure to test each part of the subject separately.*

1. Jack and (I, me) decided to go out to dinner.
2. At the party Mom and (we, us) posed for family pictures.
3. When the neighbors arrived, my parents and (they, them) started to reminisce about the good old days.
4. Sue and (he, him) decided to leave early.
5. After giving the matter careful thought, the manager and (she, her) bought ten tickets apiece.

**Errors** in pronoun case may also occur when a pronoun is immediately followed by a noun which renames the pronoun—we boys, us boys—you can locate the correct pronoun by dropping the noun.

**Example:** *(We, Us) girls voted Monday.*  
 (By removing the noun girls, the correct choice is “*We {not us} voted Monday.*”)  
*We girls voted Monday.*

**Exercise 3:** *Circle the correct pronoun.*

1. (We, Us) boys must take out the garbage.
2. At the slumber party, (we, us) girls had a pillow fight.
3. Have (we, us) teachers been invited to the inauguration?

4. Down the lane walked (we, us) campers.
5. While (we, us) parents played cards, the children slept.

**II. As Subjective Complements:** The pronouns I, you, he, she, it, we, they, and who are used as subjective complements. (A subjective complement is a noun or pronoun which follows a linking verb and is the same as the subject.)

**Example:** *It was (she, her) on the phone.*  
(She is the correct choice because she is the subjective complement.)  
*It was she on the phone.*

**Exercise:** *Circle the correct pronoun.*

1. The winners were (they, them).
2. Mrs. Stone's son is (he, him).
3. Was it (they, them) in the race?
4. If it had been (I, me), I would have told him.
5. Mother knows that the winner will be (she, her).
6. It was (we, us) who did the driving.
7. The contestants were (she and he, her and him).
8. If I were (he, him), I would go home quickly.
9. The teacher knew that it was (she, her) who cheated on the test.
10. Kerrie said, "This is (she, her)."

**III. In comparisons using THAN or AS:** The pronouns I, you, he, she, it, we, they, and who are often used in comparisons expressed by the word than or as in an abbreviated sentence. To find the correct pronoun, supply the omitted words. If the omitted word is a verb that follows the pronoun choice, the correct pronoun is in the nominative case.

**Example:** *Bobby left earlier than (I, me).*  
(I left or did could be added. I is the correct choice because it is the subject of the understood verb.)  
*Bobby left earlier than I (left).*

Note: Be careful! If you cannot logically add a verb after the pronoun choice, try to add words (subject and verb) before the pronoun choice. Then if the sentence sounds logical, you must choose the other pronoun—the objective, not the nominative one.

**Example:** *The dress fits me better than (she, her).*  
(Adding a verb after she does not make sense. However, adding it fits in front of her does make sense.)  
*The dress fits me better than (it fits) her.*

**Exercise:** *Circle the correct pronoun.*

1. The accident hurt the car more than **(it hurt)** (we, us).
2. I called as many people as (she, her). **(did)**
3. We hit more home runs than (they, them). **(did)**
4. Timmy lives closer to town than (I, me). **(do)**
5. Bees always sting Mom more than **(they sting)** (he, him).
6. Are you younger than (they, them)? **(are)**
7. I cook my roast beef longer than (she, her). **(did)**
8. He was taller than (I, me) **(was)** when we were children.
9. Jack doesn't spend as much money as (we, us). **(do)**
10. Is Bob as angry as (he, him)? **(is)**

**Review of nominative pronouns:** *circle the correct pronoun.*

1. Are Mark and (he, him) traveling together to the meeting?
2. It was (they, them) who cleaned up after the dance.
3. Harry and (we, us) will be working on the committee to raise money for the class reunion.
4. Julie had a higher temperature than (she, her) **(did)** during the night.
5. She did not know that (they, them) discovered radium
6. The new president might have been (she, her) if all of her friends had voted.
7. Can you type as correctly as (I, me)? **(do)**
8. After the movie ended, (her and him, she and he) went to Pizza Hut.
9. (We, Us) girls are practicing for cheerleading tryouts on Thursday and Friday.
10. When the seminar begins, (he, him) will be the introductory speaker.

## OBJECTIVE CASE

### I. As direct objects

The pronouns me, you, him, her, it, us, them, and whom are used as direct objects. (A direct object follows an action verb and receives the action of that verb.)

**Example:** *Mrs. Smith fired (I, me).*

(The correct choice is me because me is the direct object of fired.)

*Mrs. Smith fired me.*

## II. As indirect objects

The pronouns me, you, him, her, it, us, them, and whom are used as indirect objects. (An indirect object follows an action verb and comes before the direct object. An indirect object receives the direct object.)  
Note: You must have a direct object in order to have an indirect object.

**Example:** *Bob sent (I, me) flowers.*  
(The correct choice is me because me is the indirect object.)  
*Bob sent me flowers.*

## III. As objects of prepositions

The pronouns me, you, him, her, it, us, them, and whom are used as objects of prepositions. (An object of a preposition comes at the end of a prepositional phrase.)

**Example:** *For (we, us) the final examination was very difficult.*  
(The correct choice is us because us is the object of the preposition for.)  
*For us the final examination was very difficult.*

**Errors** in choosing the correct form of the pronoun usually arise when the object (direct, indirect, or prepositional) is compound. You can make sure the pronouns in compound objects are correct by taking out and/or and making a separate sentence with each object.

Problem: *The teacher chose Dave and (I, me).*

Solution: Remove and from the sentence. Now try your direct objects in separate sentences.

*The teacher chose Dave.*                      *The teacher chose me.*

**Correct:** *The teacher chose Dave and me.*

Problem: *The teacher gave (she, her) and (I, me) the test.*

Solution: Remove and from the sentence. Now try your indirect objects in separate sentences.

*The teacher gave her the test.*                      *The teacher gave me the test.*

**Correct:** *The teacher gave her and me the test.*

Problem: *The teacher spoke to (he, him) and (I, me).*

Solution: Remove and from the sentence. Now try your objects of the preposition in separate sentences.

*The teacher spoke to him.*                      *The teacher spoke to me.*

**Correct:** *The teacher spoke to him and me.*

**Errors** in pronoun case may also occur when a pronoun is immediately followed by a noun which renames the pronoun—we boys, us boys—you can locate the correct pronoun by dropping the noun.

**Example:** *They gave the tickets to (we, us) boys.*

(By removing the noun boys, the correct choice is “us {not we} boys.”)

**Correct:** *They gave the tickets to us boys.*

**Exercise 1:** *Circle the correct pronouns.*

1. I took Christopher and (she, her) to the theater in New York.
2. An usher showed (I, me) and (they, them) to our seats.
3. During intermission, I gave (he, him) and (she, her) money for sodas.
4. The wicked witch frightened the other kids and (they, them).
5. However, she delighted the parents and (I, me).
6. The magician especially fascinated Ashley and (he, him).
7. The actor who played the magician showed (we, us) boys some card tricks.
8. At the final curtain, the audience loudly applauded (he, him).
9. On the way home, she asked (we, us) girls if we had had fun.
10. Two days later, Ashley and Christopher sent (I, me) a sweet note.

**Exercise 2:** *Circle the correct pronouns.*

1. Mrs. Jones, our instructor, assigned Joan and (I, me) topics.
2. It was for Jeremy and (he, him).
3. It was for Jeremy and (we, us) boys.
4. Between you and (I, me), I am going to quit my job.
5. Bruce nominated (she, her) for treasurer of our club.
6. Susan made (he, him) and (they, them) lemonade.
7. Has the information convinced you and (he, him)?
8. Wait until you hear from (we, us) or (they, them).
9. The waitress served (she, her) another slice of apple pie.
10. The waitress served (we, us) girls another slice of apple pie.
11. Michelle wanted to come along with Chad and (he, him).
12. The dancing ponies gave (we, us) spectators a thrill.

### **Who/Whoever, Whom/Whomever**

Many people seem to have difficulty when choosing between who/whoever and whom/whomever, even though they follow the rules of nominative and objective pronouns. The key to success lies in finding the verbs and their subjects. If the word choice is the subject of a verb, then who is the correct choice. However, if the word choice is not the subject of a verb, then whom is the correct choice. Keeping these facts in mind, you may find the following procedures helpful.

1. Look at the words after the word choice. If there are no verbs, whom is the correct choice. There is no need to continue.



5. (Who, Whom) do I call about the apartment?
6. She will give a prize to (whoever, whomever) completes the assignment first.
7. It was he (who, whom) I saw at the mall.
8. With (who, whom) did you dance?
9. (Who, Whom) arrived before 9:00?
10. Can you tell me with (who, whom) Bob left?

**Exercise 2:** *Circle the correct pronouns.*

1. He is the candidate for (who, whom) I voted.
2. Give the clothes to (whoever, whomever) needs them.
3. She was the person (who, whom) was selected for the position.
4. (Who, Whom) will be leaving tomorrow?
5. The actor (who, whom) we met seemed to have very little personality.
6. My sister has a friend (who, whom) owns a boutique.
7. We had a hard time deciding (who, whom) should be on the committee.
8. (Who, Whom) did you select?
9. They did not know (who, whom) had been notified about the accident.
10. I would gladly accept a compliment from (whoever, whomever) wanted to give me one.

## REVIEW OF NOMINATIVE AND OBJECTIVE PRONOUNS

1. Will you call Peter and (I, me) when you decide?
2. Between Arlene and (she, her) there were many secrets.
3. Cathy and (they, them) are very good friends.
4. When Mom leaves for her class, (who, whom) will cook dinner?
5. For (who, whom) did you vote?
6. It was not (I, me) who ate the last piece of cake.
7. The award was given to Sarah, Tom, and (she, her).
8. Marty is almost as tall as (he, him). (**is**)
9. It may be (they, them) who decide the outcome of the game.
10. What do you think of Sam and (she, her)?
11. Please send (he, him) the results as soon as possible.
12. (We, Us) kids were very noisy in the restaurant.

13. Nan was always prettier than (I, me). (**was**)
14. (Who, Whom) did Jill marry?
15. Both of (they, them) were excited about graduation.
16. Many of us wonder (who, whom) he will marry.
17. Please give the award to (whoever, whomever) has the highest average.
18. Everyone except (her and me, she and I) went to the movies.
19. How do you know it will be (they, them)?
20. (We, Us) men decided to play basketball after dinner.
21. We worked harder than (they, them). (**did**)
22. Please inform them that it will be (we, us) who choose the winner..
23. Dogs seem to attack me more than (**they attack**) (she, her) .
24. I can't decide (who, whom) would like to go to the party.
25. The man (who, whom) I spoke with was from Canada.

## POSSESSIVE CASE

A possessive pronoun is used to show ownership. These types of pronouns **never** contain an apostrophe as do nouns in the possessive case. Look at the sentences below:

My brother gave me his tickets to the show.  
 Those books are theirs.  
Whose sweater is lying on the sofa?  
 The dog buried its bone in Mom's garden.

Whose, hers, its, ours, theirs, and yours are already possessive; they do **not** need an apostrophe.

**Please note** that when an apostrophe is used with a pronoun, it **always** signifies a **CONTRACTION**. Look at the sentences below:

Who's on the phone? (Who is on the phone?)  
It's going to rain. (It is going to rain.)  
She's been ill. (She has been ill.)

**Exercise 1:** *Circle the correct choice.*

1. The dress is (her's, hers).
2. (Who's, Whose) book did you borrow?
3. I took my pocketbook with me, but Regina left (her's, hers) there.
4. (It's, Its) name has been changed repeatedly.
5. They did their homework, but we forgot to do (our's, ours).

6. My house needs to have (it's, its) windows washed.
7. Did they bring (their's, theirs)?
8. She did not know (who's, whose) mom had called.
9. The car parked under the tree is (our's, ours).
10. The kitten licked (it's, its) paws after eating tuna.

## **ITS/IT'S**

Since a major possessive problem often occurs involving these choices, the next exercise will be devoted to both usages.

**Remember:** Its is the singular possessive.  
It's is the contraction for "it is" or "it has."  
Always try the substitutions **IT IS** and **IT HAS** for the contraction it's.

**Exercise 1:** *Circle the correct choice.*

1. (It's, Its) been a long time since I've seen him.
2. The fence needs (it's, its) gate repaired.
3. My dog knows (it's, its) name.
4. He said, "(It's), Its) my turn to bowl."
5. (It's, Its) my birthday next week.
6. The house should have (it's, its) address displayed clearly.
7. This month (it's, its) been twenty-five years since I graduated from high school.
8. (It's, Its) the only book I ever lost.
9. My bracelet had (it's, its) clasp caught in the keyboard.
10. (It's, Its) been raining since yesterday afternoon.

## Pronoun Reference

A pronoun must agree with the word/words it refers to in person, number, and gender. If the gender is unknown, either a masculine pronoun or a phrase combining both genders is used.

In order to locate the antecedent of a pronoun, use the following suggestions:

A. Cross out all prepositional and interrupting phrases preceding the word choice.

**Examples:**                    ~~The men in the hospital~~ complained about (his, their) food.  
    ~~Sue, as well as her mom and dad,~~ likes (her, their) house.

B. Cross out word groups beginning with Either . . . or and Neither . . . nor.

**Examples:**                    ~~Either Tom or~~ they will drive (his, their) car to Ohio.  
    ~~Neither they nor~~ Tom will drive (his, their) car to Ohio.

C. When words are joined by or, only the word after or is used to determine pronoun reference.

**Examples:**                    Bob ~~or his parents~~ will bring (his, their) car.  
    Bob's parents ~~or he~~ will bring (his, their) car.

D. When words are joined by and, the antecedent is usually considered to be plural.

**Examples:**                    My sister ~~and her friend~~ forgot to do (her, their) homework.  
    The book ~~and the pen~~ were returned to (its, their) owners.

**Some indefinite pronouns are singular, some are plural, and some can be either singular or plural:**

<p><b>Singular:</b></p> <p>each            no one            nobody</p> <p>every           anyone            anybody</p> <p>one              someone          somebody</p> <p>either           everyone          everybody</p> <p>neither</p>	<p><b>Plural:</b></p> <p>few</p> <p>many</p> <p>both</p> <p>several</p>	<p><b>Either Singular or Plural*:</b></p> <p>all</p> <p>any</p> <p>more</p> <p>most</p> <p>some</p> <p style="text-align: right;">*based on context</p>
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**Examples:**                    ~~Each of the girls~~ must bring (her, their) mother.  
    ~~Many of the students~~ forgot (his, their) books.

↕  
All of the newspaper (was, were) soaked. [Just one newspaper was soaked.]

↕  
All of the newspapers (was, were) soaked. [More than one newspaper was soaked.]

**Exercise 1:** *Circle the correct choice.*

1. If anyone calls me, tell (him, them) that I am busy.
2. Three students walked quickly to (his, their) class.
3. Has everyone done (his, their) assignment for today?
4. Few of the speakers had (his, their) words quoted.
5. Neither Joe nor his friends want to sell (his, their) tickets.
6. The girls, along with the boys, tried to fly (her, their) kite.
7. Most of us (does, do) want a fulfilling career.
8. When teenagers apply for a job, (he, they) should make a good first impression.
9. Many of the houses had (its, their) chimneys cleaned this spring.
10. If either of the lines is busy, (it, they) should be checked.

**Review of Pronoun Reference:** *Circle the correct choice.*

1. Do you think that people should follow (his, their) instincts when making important decisions?
2. Nobody on either of the teams brought (his, their) hat.
3. The winner or the losers will still remember (his, their) week of competition.
4. If an employee is repeatedly late, (his, their) job will be in jeopardy.
5. A child is expected to obey (her, their) parents.
6. Both of the cars had (its, their) hubcaps stolen.
7. The members of the committee submitted (his, their) ballots.
8. Since everyone did (his, their) work, the job was finished early.
9. The flock of geese left (its, their) home to fly south for the winter.
10. If a registration form is late, (it, they) should be disregarded.