

Chapter 4: Using Pronouns**WORKSHEET 1****Pronoun Case**

Case is the form of a noun or a pronoun that shows how it is used. In English there are three cases: **nominative**, **objective**, and **possessive**. Most personal pronouns have a different form for each case, as this chart indicates.

		Nominative	Objective	Possessive
SINGULAR	FIRST PERSON:	I	me	my, mine
	SECOND PERSON:	you	you	your, yours
	THIRD PERSON:	he, she, it	him, her, it	his, her, hers, its
PLURAL	FIRST PERSON:	we	us	our, ours
	SECOND PERSON:	you	you	your, yours
	THIRD PERSON:	they	them	their, theirs

Exercise Each sentence in the following paragraph contains at least one personal pronoun. On the lines provided, identify each personal pronoun. Then give its person, number, and case. Use the abbreviations *NOM* for nominative case, *OBJ* for objective case, and *POS* for possessive case.

EXAMPLE: [1] Jeffrey and I were chatting in front of his locker before the Art Club meeting.

1. I—first person singular, NOM; his—third person singular, POS

[1] He told me that African tribal masks influenced the modernist movement in art. [2] The year 1905 was probably when artist Pablo Picasso and his friends first saw African masks exhibited in Paris. [3] Amedeo Modigliani was especially affected by the stark masks, and he and Picasso created many works based on them. [4] I used to think that Modigliani made his faces too long by mistake, but the error was mine. [5] Ms. Keller told me that he was copying the exaggerated shapes of Ivory Coast masks.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

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WORKSHEET 2

The Nominative Case

Pronouns used as **subjects** are in the **nominative case**.

SUBJECT: **She** plays the guitar.

COMPOUND SUBJECT: **Julio and I** went to a lacrosse game yesterday.

Pronouns used as **predicate nominatives** are also in the nominative case. A **predicate nominative** is a noun or a pronoun that follows a linking verb and explains or identifies the subject of the verb. A pronoun that is used as a predicate nominative always follows a form of the verb *be*: *am, is, are, was, were, be, or been*.

PREDICATE NOMINATIVE: It was **he** who called and left a message.

Exercise A For each of the following sentences, underline the correct form of the pronoun or pronouns in parentheses.

EXAMPLE: 1. James Earl Jones and (she, her) are excellent role models for young actors.

1. Terry and (him, he) plan to try out for the soccer team.
2. She and (I, me) gave the dog a bath.
3. (They, Them) love those little Chinese dumplings, called dim sum, which are served at many Chinese restaurants.
4. The sophomores who organized the drive were (us, we).
5. Are you and (he, him) doing the report?
6. Either (we, us) or (them, they) may go to the championship finals.
7. The leader of the drill team is (she, her).
8. The twins and (them, they) go everywhere together.
9. Did you know that (her, she) saw Chita Rivera in a Broadway production of *West Side Story*?
10. Soon (he, him) and (me, I) will be graduating.

Exercise B: Proofreading The following paragraph contains three errors in the case forms of personal pronouns and two errors in spelling. Can you find these errors? Proofread the paragraph to correct all the errors you can find.

Dorothy Parker was a famous American writer and critic. Her and her colleagues formed a literary circle that met regularly at the Algonquin Hotel in New York City. It was them who became known as "The Algonquin Round Table." They were a witty, extremley talented group. But Parker was parhaps the wittiest of all. For example, it was her who wanted her gravestone to read, "Pardon my dust."

Chapter 4: Using Pronouns**WORKSHEET 3****The Objective Case**

Pronouns used as objects are in the objective case. A **direct object** is a noun or a pronoun that follows an action verb. It tells *who* or *what* receives the action of the verb.

DIRECT OBJECT: Dr. Masoaka treated Rafael and me for our allergies.

An **indirect object** is a noun or a pronoun that tells *to whom*, *to what*, *for whom*, or *for what* something is done.

INDIRECT OBJECT: Mrs. Alvarez knitted Jenny and us sweaters.

A prepositional phrase consists of a preposition, a noun or a pronoun called the **object of the preposition**, and any modifiers of that object.

OBJECTS OF PREPOSITION: Please give these tickets to him and her.

Exercise A For each of the following sentences, underline the correct form of the pronoun in parentheses.

EXAMPLE: 1. Sean entertained Luisa and (I, me) with a folk tale.

1. The old sailor warned (us, we) about the danger.
2. The city awarded (they, them) its highest honor for their bravery.
3. You could ask Deborah or (I, me).
4. The crowd cheered (her, she) heartily.
5. Make sure that you ask (he, him) what his social security number is.
6. The shark in that movie didn't scare (us, we) at all.
7. How can I recognize (they, them)?
8. We saw Norman and (he, him) in their horse costume at the party.
9. Did you give Paula and (she, her) their assignments?
10. I bought my father and (he, him) identical birthday presents this year.

Exercise B: Proofreading Each of the following sentences contains an italicized pronoun or pronouns. If a pronoun is incorrect, cross it out and write the correct form on the line provided. If the form of a pronoun is correct, write C.

EXAMPLE: 1. After Carmen rolled the corn husks around the tamales, she handed them to Arturo and ~~he~~ me

1. The referee called fouls on *he* and *I*. _____
2. Maggie is off fishing with Grandpa and *he*. _____
3. We didn't want to leave without you and *her*. _____
4. They assigned the same lab equipment to *us* and *they*. _____
5. The duke directed a haughty sneer at the jester and *he*. _____

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WORKSHEET 4

Special Pronoun Problems: Who and Whom

Who is used as a subject of a verb and as a predicate nominative. *Whom* is used as an object of a verb and as an object of a preposition. The pronouns *who* and *whoever* are in the nominative case; *whom* and *whomever* are in the objective case. The use of *who* or *whom* in a subordinate clause depends on how the pronoun functions in the clause. In the following example, notice how four simple steps reveal which pronoun to use in the sentence *Do you know (who, whom) the writer is?* These steps can help you determine how the pronoun functions in a subordinate clause.

QUESTION: What is the subordinate clause in the sentence?

ANSWER: (*who, whom*) *the writer is*

QUESTION: How is the pronoun used in the clause—as subject, predicate nominative, object of the verb, or object of a preposition?

ANSWER: The pronoun is the predicate nominative in the clause.

QUESTION: What is the correct case for this use of the pronoun?

ANSWER: A pronoun used as a predicate nominative is in the nominative case.

QUESTION: What is the correct form of the pronoun?

ANSWER: Do you know *who* the writer is?

Exercise Underline the subordinate clause containing *who*, *whom*, *whoever*, or *whomever* in each of the following sentences. Then, on the line provided, tell how the relative pronoun (*who*, *whom*, *whoever*, or *whomever*) is used in its own clause. Write *S* for subject, *PN* for predicate nominative, *DO* for direct object, or *OP* for object of a preposition.

EXAMPLE: DO 1. She is someone whom we all admire.

- _____ 1. Whoever lives in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico is governed by the commonwealth's own senate, supreme court, and governor's cabinet.
- _____ 2. In 1969, the governor needed a secretary of labor on whom he could depend.
- _____ 3. Whomever he appointed would have many responsibilities.
- _____ 4. Do you know who the choice was?
- _____ 5. The appointment went to Mrs. Julia Rivera De Vincenti, who became the first woman to occupy a cabinet post in Puerto Rico.
- _____ 6. De Vincenti, who had earned a Ph.D., was a good choice.
- _____ 7. De Vincenti, who was later appointed to the U.S. Mission to the United Nations, was the first Puerto Rican to serve in that capacity.
- _____ 8. She demonstrated that she was a person who knew her job well.
- _____ 9. She praised her compatriots, from whom advances in agriculture had come.
- _____ 10. And De Vincenti made history again, for she was the first woman who ever wore a pantsuit to address the General Assembly!

Chapter 4: Using Pronouns**WORKSHEET 5****Pronouns Used
as Appositives**

An **appositive** is a noun or a pronoun placed next to another noun or pronoun to identify or explain it. Pronouns used as appositives are in the same case as the words to which they refer.

The winners, Joni and I, received gold medals. [The pronoun is in the nominative case because it is used as an appositive of the subject, *winners*.]

The awards committee gave the winners, Joni and me, gold medals. [The pronoun is in the objective case because it is used as an appositive of the indirect object, *winners*.]

The ones to thank are the chaperones, Mrs. Crawford and he. [The pronoun is in the nominative case because it is used as an appositive of the predicate nominative, *chaperones*.]

The parade is for the returning heroes, Lt. Lewis and her. [The pronoun is in the objective case because it is used as an appositive of *heroes*, the object of the preposition.]

Sometimes the pronoun **we** or **us** is followed by a noun appositive.

We dancers need more practice.

The show director gave us dancers a long practice session.

Exercise A For each of the following sentences, underline the correct form of the pronoun in parentheses.

EXAMPLE: 1. The party was planned by my two best friends, Alameda and (she, her).

1. For our guest speaker, (we, us) writers chose a famous poet.
2. Two foreign-exchange students, José and (I, me), led the procession.
3. The top awards went to my favorite actors, Danny Glover and (he, him).
4. The dancers in the final act were two professionals, Debbie Allen and (he, him).
5. Pictures of the two teams, the Vikings and (they, them), appeared in the paper.

Exercise B: Proofreading Each of the following sentences contains an error in pronoun form. Revise each sentence to correct the error.

EXAMPLE: 1. We gave the tennis players, Wolfgang and ^{her}~~she~~, more practice time.

1. Sometimes you fans are awfully rough on we referees.
2. The donors of the funds were prominent citizens, Ann Tsao and her.
3. Often, us left-handers have to struggle with scissors designed for you righties.
4. My neighbor Henri gave the weary hikers, Sharon and he, a ride home.
5. We are the winners, Joel and me.

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Pronouns in Incomplete Constructions

In a sentence with an **incomplete construction**, the case of the pronoun depends on how the omitted part of the sentence would be completed. After *than* and *as*, use the pronoun form that would be correct if the construction were completed. Notice in the following examples how changing the pronoun changes the meaning of such sentences.

Do you trust Laura more than [you trust] **me**?

Do you trust Laura more than I [trust Laura]?

Exercise In each of the following sentences, underline the correct form of the pronoun in parentheses. Then, on the line provided, supply the missing part of the incomplete construction. If a sentence may be completed in two different ways, underline both alternatives and provide both completions.

EXAMPLE: 1. I like Arsenio Hall better than (she, her).

she likes Arsenio Hall; I like her

1. We played defense better than (they, them).

2. When Michael Chang won the men's singles title, nobody was as pleased as (I, me).

3. Nobody tried harder than (she, her).

4. You are a month younger than (he, him).

5. I know Millie better than (she, her).

6. Did you get as far in that book as (I, me)?

7. Richard wanted more tickets than (we, us).

8. Bianca lives farther away than (we, us).

9. She visited Lisa more often than (I, me).

10. Carlos plays classical guitar in the style of Andrés Segovia but not as well as (he, him).

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WORKSHEET 7

Inexact Pronoun Reference: Ambiguous and General Reference

A pronoun should always refer clearly to its antecedent. Using a pronoun in such a way that it can refer to either of two antecedents produces an **ambiguous reference**.

AMBIGUOUS: Ludlow told Pete to wash his dirty socks. [Whose socks?]

CLEAR: Pete's socks were dirty, and Ludlow told him to wash them.

Make sure that you include a specific, stated antecedent for each pronoun you use. Using a pronoun that refers to a general idea rather than to a specific noun produces a **general reference**. The pronouns commonly used in making general-reference errors are *it*, *that*, *this*, *such*, and *which*.

GENERAL: The sky looks black. That may mean rain is on its way.
[no specific antecedent for *that*]

CLEAR: The black sky may mean rain is on its way.

Exercise A On the blank provided, tell whether the inexact pronoun reference in each of the following sentences is an ambiguous-reference error (AMB) or a general-reference error (GEN).

EXAMPLE: GEN 1. Ella Fitzgerald is known for her scat, or nonsense syllables. That should not surprise you.

- _____ 1. Tanya first listened to Ella Fitzgerald while she was on vacation in Florida.
- _____ 2. Fitzgerald was discovered in a contest in Harlem in 1934, which is especially interesting to me.
- _____ 3. My mother told Tanya that she should hear Fitzgerald sing "A Tisket A Tasket."
- _____ 4. Tanya has a collection of jazz records, which gives her a lot of pleasure.
- _____ 5. Fitzgerald has had a long and distinguished singing career. That explains why she is sometimes called the "First Lady of Song."

Exercise B: Revising On the lines provided, rewrite the sentences from Exercise A to eliminate inexact pronoun references. Although these sentences can be corrected in more than one way, you need give only one revision.

EXAMPLE: 1. That Ella Fitzgerald is known for her scat, or nonsense syllables, should not surprise you.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

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WORKSHEET 8

Inexact Pronoun Reference: Weak Reference and Indefinite Reference

Using a pronoun to refer to a word or idea that is not specifically stated results in a weak reference.

WEAK: In the last inning, Earl hit it out of the park! [*It* likely refers to a baseball, but the writer has not given a specific antecedent for *it*.]

CLEAR: In the last inning, Earl hit the ball out of the park!

Using the pronouns *it*, *they*, and *you* unnecessarily is common in informal conversation. Avoid using such indefinite references in more formal situations.

INDEFINITE: In the article, they call Denzel Washington a great actor. [The pronoun *they* is not necessary to the meaning of the sentence.]

CLEAR: The author of the article calls Denzel Washington a great actor.

Exercise: Revising The following sentences contain weak or indefinite pronoun references. On the lines provided, rewrite each sentence by replacing the inexact reference with a clear reference. Although these sentences can be corrected in more than one way, you need only give one revision.

EXAMPLE: 1. I like songwriting, but they may not sound good.

I like songwriting, but my songs may not sound good.

1. Ertha paints well, and that is my favorite.

2. My uncle took flying lessons, and now he likes to do it on his own.

3. In the college catalog, it describes all the courses offered.

4. They always have a monthly calendar of events in that magazine.

5. Angie works at the Humane Society and really enjoys taking care of them.

Chapter 4: Using Pronouns**WORKSHEET 9****Review**

Exercise A Underline the correct word in parentheses in each of the following sentences.

EXAMPLE: 1. Was it (he, him) driving the car when the accident occurred?

1. Francis said that he would give his stamp collection to his brother and (I, me).
2. Everyone was waiting to find out (who, whom) the new cheerleader would be.
3. My little sister is a much better basketball player than (I, me).
4. Ben Nighthorse Campbell is one senator (who, whom) thinks Native Americans should be consulted more often about legislation that concerns them.
5. We found that it was (she, her) who called twice while we were gone.
6. The teacher said that (whoever, whomever) was ready could speak first.
7. Speaking of Ken Griffey, Jr., (he, him) and his dad are the first father and son to play professional baseball together on the same team.
8. Seeing a car with an out-of-state license plate in my driveway, I ran inside, and (who, whom) do you think was there?
9. Mrs. Martin and (she, her) have been friends since childhood.
10. As you swim, you use nearly all of your major muscles, which makes (it, swimming) one of the best forms of exercise.

Exercise B Underline the correct pronoun in parentheses in each numbered sentence in the following paragraph.

EXAMPLE: [1] Josh said that you and (he, him) have never gone canoeing.

[1] Last fall, Tina talked Susan and (I, me) into going on a canoe trip with the Wilderness Club on the Buffalo National River. [2] She warned (we, us) that we might get a good dunking before we were through. [3] When we set out, Susan and (I, me) could barely steer our canoe. [4] We watched another canoeist and saw how (she, her) and her partner maneuvered their craft. [5] They and (we, us) both did well until we hit the rapids or, rather, the rapids hit (we, us). [6] Susan grabbed for our sleeping bags, and (she, her) and (I, me) both scrambled for our food cooler. [7] All of (we, us) would-be campers were drenched, but no quitters were (we, us). [8] Tina's warning haunted all of (we, us) as (we, us) hungry adventurers contemplated waterlogged sandwiches. [9] Later, Susan and (I, me) discovered that our bedrolls had become portable water beds. [10] After a cold, squishy night, (I, me) concluded that wise are (they, them) who heed the voice of experience.

Chapter 4, Worksheet 9, continued

Exercise C Many of the italicized pronouns in the following paragraph represent errors in pronoun usage. Write the correct word in the blank. If an italicized pronoun is correct, write C.

EXAMPLE: Did you know that Rachel and [1] *her* she are sisters?

I recently read that anyone [1] *who* _____ comes from a large family grows up with a desire to be surrounded by people all the time. Well, just between you and [2] *I* _____, that isn't always true! There aren't many teenagers who enjoy their privacy as much as [3] *me* _____. Because I'm the oldest child, I've spent years settling squabbles between my brothers and sisters, helping with homework, and feeding [4] *whomever* _____ was hungry. When my brothers got into trouble, I always smoothed things over between [5] *they* _____ and Dad. And when [6] *him* _____ and Mom were busy in the evening, I read to [7] *whoever* _____ had an earlier bedtime than [8] *me* _____. Even now that we're all older, the laughing, yelling, bickering, and commotion always let you know exactly [9] *whom* _____ is home at any moment. You'd better believe that [10] *this* _____ has given me a deep craving for privacy.

Exercise D: Revising On the lines provided, revise each of the following sentences to correct the inexact pronoun reference. If a sentence is correct, write C. [Note: Although these sentences can be corrected in more than one way, you need give only one revision.]

EXAMPLE: 1. In a brochure recently published by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), it promotes recycling.

A brochure recently published by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) promotes recycling.

1. The newest twist in recycling is *precycling*—cutting it off at its source. _____

2. After reading the EPA's brochure, my family put the brochure's ideas into practice. _____

3. We now choose products that have less packaging; we carry groceries home in cloth bags instead of paper or plastic ones; and we buy containers that can be refilled, which is easy. _____

4. That has greatly reduced the amount of junk mail we get. _____

5. When we do have waste products, inventing new ways to use them becomes a challenge in creative thinking; one of them was mine. _____
