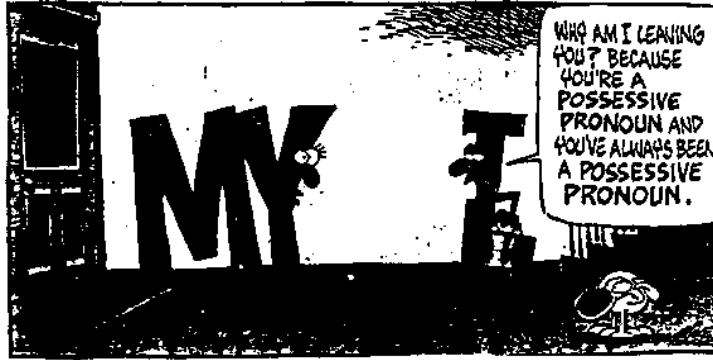


PRONOUNS

Pronouns replace nouns, so they must agree with nouns in number (singular-plural) and gender.



Personal Pronouns

Personal pronouns stand for a person or thing.

	Subject Pronouns	Object Pronouns	Possessive Pronouns	Possessive adjectives	Reflexive & Intensive Pronouns
First Person	I	Me	Mine	My	Myself
Second Person	You	You	Yours	Your	Yourself
Third Person Singular	He	Him	His	His	Himself
Third Person Singular	She	Her	Hers	Her	Herself
Third Person Plural	It	It	Its	Its	Itself
Third Person Plural	We	Us	Ours	Our	Ourselves
Third Person Plural	They	Them	Theirs	Their	Themselves

PRONOUNS

Relative Pronouns

Relative pronouns introduce an adjective or noun clause in a sentence.

	WHO	WHOM	WHOSE
	WHOEVER	WHOMEVER	WHOSOEVER

To check the use of *who* and *whom* or *whoever* and *whomever* try the "drop test." Temporarily drop everything in the sentence up to the pronoun and then make substitutions.

TEST FOR *WHO/WHOM* IN SUBJECTIVE CASE

EXAMPLE	I wondered (who, whom) would vote.
DROP	I wondered
TEST	Try <i>he</i> - and <i>him</i> (or <i>she</i> and <i>her</i>): "He would vote" or "Him would vote/*"
ANSWER	He. Therefore, because <i>he</i> is - subjective, <i>who</i> , which is also the subjective, is correct: "I wondered who would vote,"

TEST FOR *WHOMEVER/WHOMEVER* IN OBJECTIVE CASE

DROP	Volunteers go to senior citizen centers hoping to enroll people (who, whom) others have ignored.
TEST	Volunteers go to senior citizen centers hoping to enroll people. Try <i>they</i> and <i>them</i> at the end of the sentence: "Others have ignored they/*" or "Others have ignored them."
ANSWER	Them. Therefore, because <i>them</i> is objective, <i>whom</i> , which is also objective, is correct: "Volunteers go to senior citizen centers hoping to enroll people whom others have ignored,"

Who, Which, and That

Who refers to people and animals.

Example: Barbara, who lives next door to us, is a Giants fan. "■-

Which refers to things.

Example: Please return my handbook, which I left on the table. *That* refers to a person or thing in restrictive (essential) clauses,

Example: Jumping to conclusions that are wrong won't help this case.

PRONOUNS

Interrogative Pronoun

Interrogative pronouns ask a question

WHO...? WHOM...?

WHICH...?

Use *who* if the question is about the subject *and whom* if the question is about the object.

To determine if the case is subject or object, make the question a statement.

Example; *Who* watched the Giants last night?

(“I” watched the Giants last night.” The question is about the subject.)

Whom does Steve Young admire?

(“Steve Young admires *him/her*.” The question is about the object.)

Demonstrative Pronouns

A demonstrative pronoun points to a particular thing or group of things.

	SINGULAR	PLURAL
	THIS	THESE
	THAT	THOSE

Example: I just love *this* book.

Don't you dare eat *those* cookies.

Indefinite Pronouns

Indefinite pronouns refer to nonspecific persons or things.

Common pronouns that are always singular

anybody	each	nobody
anyone	either	one
everybody	every	somebody
everyone	neither	someone

PRONOUNS

Example: *Each* of the boys has his cap on backwards.
Either Kimm or Barbara will give me her ticket to the game.

Of the many kinds of pronouns, the following cause the most difficulty:

SUBJECT GROUP	NONSUBJECT GROUP
I	me
he	him
she	her
we	us
they	them

A **pronoun** in the **Subject Group** may be used in two ways;

1. as the subject of a verb:

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

We gave a party. (*We* is the subject of the

He is taller than I. (The sentence is not written out in full.) It means "He is taller than I am." **I** is the subject of the verb *am*.) Whenever **you** see *than* in a sentence, ask yourself whether a verb has been left off. Add the verb, and then you'll automatically use the correct pronoun. In both speaking and writing, always add the verb. Instead of saying, "She's smarter than (I, me)," say, "She's smarter than I am." Then you can't fail to use the correct pronoun.

2. as a word that means the same as the subject:

That boy in the blue jeans is he. (*He* is a word that means the same as the subject *boy*. Therefore the pronoun from the Subject Group is used.

It was **she** all right *She* means the same as the subject *If*, Therefore the pronoun from the Subject Group is used.

Pronouns in the Nonsubject Group are used for all other purposes.

In **the** following sentence, *me* is not the subject, nor does it mean the same as the subject. Therefore it comes from the Nonsubject Group.

He came with Julie and me.

A good way to tell which pronoun to use is to leave out the extra name. By leaving out *Julie*, you will say, *He came with me*. You would never say, *He came with I*.

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We saw Loretta and him last night (We saw *him* last night.)
He gave us boys a pony. (He gave *us* a pony.)
The firm gave my wife and me a trip. (The firm gave *me* a trip.)

Exercises

Underline the correct pronoun. Remember the trick of leaving out the extra name to help you decide which pronoun to use. Use the correct grammatical form even though an alternate form may be acceptable in conversation.

Exercise 1

It cost Dave and (I me) a dollar a piece to make that long-distance call.

1. Dave is smarter than (I me), but he doesn't work as hard.
 2. Consequently, I usually get better grades than (he him).
 3. This time, though, (he him) and (I me) studied together.
 4. No one could be better prepared for this exam than (we us).
 5. We expect that both (he him) and (I me) will pass.
 6. An invitation came to (her she) and her husband.
 7. I hope that Dave and (I me) will be invited too.
 8. Dave and (I me) would love to go.
-

Exercise 2

1. (Me and my sister, My sister and I) share an apartment
2. My aunt asked my sister and (I me) to visit her.
3. My aunt asked whether my sister and (I me) would like to see the 'carnival.
4. Of course my sister and (I me) were eager to go.
5. That's a problem for you and (he him) to solve.
6. No one knows all the angles except you and (he him).
7. You and (he him) will just have to sit down and work it out.
8. Both you and (he him) must compromise.

- 9: I know it can be worked out to suit both you and (he him).
10. Let me know when you and (he Mm) have reached an agreement.

Exercise3

1. The director asked (we us) girls to plan the party for tie cast.
2. (We Us) girls did most of the decorating.
3. The food was left up to (we us) girls too.
4. It was a close game of chess between my Mend and^I me).
5. Did you watch (he him) and (I me) playing?
6. No one could be more of a clown than (he him).
7. There's always a good feeling between (we us) two.
8. While we were traveling in Nevada, time went fast for Lou and (I me).
9. (Lou and I, Me and Lou) were gone three weeks.
10. It was one of the best trips Lou and (I me) ever took.

Making the Pronoun Refer to the Right Word

When you write a sentence, *you* know what it means, but your reader may not. What does this sentence mean?

Joe told his father he would have to take the car to the garage.

Who would have to take the car? We don't know whether the pronoun refers to Joe or to his father. The sentence might mean

Joe said that his father would have to take the car to the garage.

or

Joe told his father that he was taking the car to the garage.

The simplest Way to correct such a faulty reference is to use a direct quotation:

Joe said to his father, "I'll-have to take the car to the garage."

Here is another sentence with a faulty reference:

I've always been interested in nursing and finally have decided to become one.

Decided-to become a nursing? There's no word for owe to refer to. We need to write:
I've always been interested in nursing and finally have decided to become a nurse.

Another kind of faulty reference is a *which* clause that doesn't refer to any specific word, thus making it difficult to tell what part of the sentence it refers to.

No one could tell him where the bike had been left which made him angry.

Was he angry because no one could tell him or because the bike had not been left in its proper place? The sentence should read:

It made Mm angry that the bike had not been left in its place.

or

It made him angry that no one could tell him where the bike had been left.

Exercises

Most, but not all, of these sentences aren't clear because we don't know what word the pronoun refers to. Revise such sentences, making the meaning clear. Remember that using a direct quotation is often the easiest way to clarify what a pronoun refers to. Since there are more ways than one to rewrite each sentence, yours may be as good as the one on the answer sheet. Just ask yourself whether the meaning is clear.

Exercise 1

1. I put the omelet on the table, took off my apron, and began to eat it.
2. They offered me a job which pleased me.
3. I've been trying to decide what trip to take which isn't easy.
4. She
5. told her sister that her room was a mess.
6. I have a pair of glasses, but my eyes are so good that I don't use them except for reading
7. The president told the dean he had been too lenient.
8. When I praised the child's finger painting, it was pleased.

PRONOUN, FAULTY REFERENCE - EXERCISE #1

Write Ref after each of the following sentences which contain a faulty pronoun reference. Write a C if the sentence is clear. Correct the faulty pronouns reference by revising the sentence.)

1. Professor Sharp has a dry satiric sense of humor, and it makes his classes popular
2. Uncle Fred's factory has grown in the last two years for now they employ over a hundred men and women.
3. Marian's mother was delighted to learn that she had been elected to the school board.
4. Dean Brandt spoke bitterly, which hurt my feelings.
5. I would never ride in a space capsule; however, I am fascinated by them.
6. In the English department they offer a course in black literature.
7. Helen told Pam that she was tired and needed a vacation.
8. The doughnut machine is broken, so we can't have them for breakfast.
9. I sent my application to the personnel manager, but he hasn't received it yet.
11. The young boy ran to the police department to tell them about the accident.
12. Professor Wilson forced his students to buy his latest book, which annoyed them.
13. After Paul handed the final car payment to Mr. Breen, he looked relieved.
14. **Harold wants to be a popular blues singer, which would fulfill his highest dreams.**
15. **They say that Professor Riley is the hardest teacher in the geology department**
16. **When the students hear that Senator Grimsby was to visit the campus, they prepared a demonstration.**
18. **If your mother doesn't want this homeless little puppy, give her to the animal shelter.**

PRONOUN

Cross out the incorrect case of the pronouns given in parenthesis.

1. The Chamber of Commerce decided (who, whom) to select as mayor.
2. The bush pilot and (me, I) drank hot coffee together.
3. (Who, Whom) won the game was not known at press time.
4. The watermelon eating contest was at last just between (her, she) and (me, I),
5. Hummingbirds, (who, which) are the smallest of all birds, have long bills which (it uses, they use) to drink with.
6. The early homesteaders (who, which)-arrived in Minnesota found (his, their) first winter most difficult.
7. In some of these towns most citizens depend on the railroad for (one's, their) basic food supply.
8. Neither the mayor nor the committee members could agree on (it's, their) choice.
9. (This, These) kind of comedies was popular in the 193 0's.
10. This legislature is characterized by (its, their) tight hold on the state funds.
12. The chief architect and his firm are turning (their, his) attention to efficiency.
13. People who swim without friends take unnecessary risks with (one's life, **their lives**).
14. One of the credit unions reported that (their, its) deposits were enormous.
15. Most major banks use helicopters to transport (their, its, it's) messages.
16. The researchers reported that (Ms. her, his or her, their) subjects died.
17. Laying bricks well takes patience and skill; (it requires, they require) a long apprenticeship.
18. Biofeedback enables people to control (one's, their) involuntary muscles.
19. The club made enough money with (its, their) booksales.

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21. The media were at the wedding in great numbers with (their, its) cameras.
22. Two-year olds are known for (their, his, her) vocal independence.
23. The class discussed the issue with animation - some of (them, it) with hostility.
24. Neither the ancient heroes nor (his, their) gods believed that (he, they) could overcome destiny.
25. Both the poet and the reporter were successful in (their, her) predictions.
26. No other singer has as much vocal range as (him, he).
27. The band (themselves, theirself, themselves) asked to play the song.
28. (Us, We) patients found that our contact lenses gave (us, we) better vision.
29. The oboe player told (I, me, myself) that he had been playing since (he, him) was six years old.
30. The skydiving was a thrilling experience for Mary, (I, me), and (whoever, whomever) came on the flight.
31. The club divided its scholarship money between (she, her) and (I, me).
32. (Who, Whom) did the president pick as his representative?
33. We played a better game than (them, they), but we made many mistakes anyway.
34. The Governor (hisself, himself) traveled to Spain with my wife and (I, me).
35. She asked her neighbor and (me, I) for dietary suggestions.
36. (Who, Whom) did you see at the party?
37. The man (who, whom) I met yesterday is a famous actor.
38. (Who, Whom) are you, and where did you come from?
39. She is much more beautiful than (they, them).
40. Where are the men (who, whom) I called?