

PRONOUN CASE

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

PRONOUNS are used to replace nouns. All pronouns have several forms.

| SUBJECT | OBJECT | POSSESSIVE ADJECTIVE | POSSESSIVE PRONOUN | REFLEXIVE |
|---------|--------|----------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| I | me | my | mine | myself |
| you | you | your | yours | yourself/yourselves |
| he | him | his | his | himself |
| she | her | her | hers | herself |
| it | it | its | its | itself |
| we | us | our | ours | ourselves |
| they | them | their | theirs | themselves |

Use the *subject* form of pronouns to replace nouns that are *subjects*; use the *object* forms for nouns that are *objects*.

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|---|--|
| She and Harry speak French better than you and I do. | Didn't the candidate call Robert and him before the election? |
| The calendar that we bought last year is not accurate. | Between you and me , the new church is in trouble. |

To make choices between subjects and objects clearer, use the pronoun that would sound best in place of compound constructions.

Ex. (**She, Her**) and Harry speak French better than you and I do. To decide between **she** and **her**, take **Harry** out of the sentence.

“**She** speaks French better” or “**Her** speaks French better”? **She** is the correct answer: **She and Harry speak French better than you and I do.**

Watch out for elliptical clauses beginning with “than” or “as”. An elliptical clause is incomplete because part of the clause is understood.

Ex. **She is a faster runner than (I, me).**

Ex. **I don't like Janice as much as (she, her).**

We understand these sentences to mean the following: “She is a faster runner than (I, me) am.” “I don't like Janice as much as I like (she, her).”

Because these elements are left out of the clause, deciding which case pronoun to use can be confusing. Remember to complete the clause before you choose which pronoun to use. In the first sentence, the correct pronoun to use is **I** rather than **me** because **I** is the subject. In the second sentence, the correct pronoun to use is **her** rather than **she** because **her** is the object after the verb.

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|--|---------------------------|--|--|
| Use <i>possessive adjectives</i> before a noun; use <i>possessive pronouns</i> without a noun. | | Use <i>reflexive pronouns</i> when the subject and object are the same and for emphasis. | |
| Your car is as fast as my car. | Yours is as fast as mine. | We can laugh at <i>ourselves</i> . | She made the curtains <i>herself</i> . |
| Her dog is bigger than our dog. | Hers is bigger than ours. | The kitchen won't clean <i>itself</i> . | The king <i>himself</i> rode the bus. |
| <i>Possessive pronouns</i> NEVER have apostrophes! | | NEVER use a <i>reflexive pronoun</i> to replace a subject or an object. | |

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[LEARN MORE](#)

Don't forget: students can always ask tutors or their teachers for an explanation of anything that's not clear.

Texts available to use in the SLC English Writing Lab:

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| <i>Grassroots with Readings</i> , Ninth Edition Susan Fawcett Chapter 20 | <i>Evergreen, A Guide to Writing with Readings</i> , Ninth Edition, Susan Fawcett Chapter 32 | The Bedford Handbook, Seventh Edition, Diana Hacker Chapters 22 – 25 |
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Online:

[What Is A Pronoun?](#)

[Pronouns](#)

[Pronoun Case](#)

[A Second Quiz on Pronoun Forms](#)

[Grassroots Companion Site](#)

[Evergreen Companion Site](#)

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PRACTICE

Rewrite this paragraph for each of the subjects listed.

I can't work in the mall anymore because it costs too much. I've learned that the more time I spend in the mall, the more likely I am to find really great bargains. The trouble is, though, that no matter how inexpensive things are, I can't afford to buy stuff every day. Sure, I'm getting super deals, but as soon as my employer gives me my paycheck, the money's gone. I just can't control myself when I'm there all the time. I need to find another job where I can earn some money that will be mine for more than five minutes.

- Cassandra can't work in the mall...
- Charlie can't work in the mall...
- You can't work in the mall...
- My brother and I can't work in the mall...
- Teenagers can't work in the mall...

Correct these sentences:

1. My oldest brother is a lot taller than me.
2. My girlfriends and me are going to see *Pirates of the Caribbean*.
3. Us men like the coach.
4. Bob and me travel a good deal.
5. I don't watch television as much as her.
6. This book is her's.
7. Himself was planning a vacation.