



Many possessive pronouns (such as *my, your, his, her, its, our, and their*) are also called adjectives. Follow your teacher's directions in labeling these possessive forms.



To choose the correct form of a pronoun used as a predicate nominative, remember that the pronoun could be used as the subject.

EXAMPLE The fastest runners are **she** and **I**.
[predicate nominatives]
She and **I** are the fastest runners. [subjects]

For more about predicate nominatives, see page 939.

4 USING PRONOUNS

CASE

Case is the form that a noun or a pronoun takes to show its use in a sentence. There are three cases: *nominative, objective, and possessive*. Unlike nouns, most personal pronouns have different forms for all three cases.

PERSONAL PRONOUNS		
SINGULAR		
NOMINATIVE	OBJECTIVE	POSSESSIVE
I	me	my, mine
you	you	your, yours
he, she, it	him, her, it	his, her, hers, its
PLURAL		
NOMINATIVE	OBJECTIVE	POSSESSIVE
we	us	our, ours
you	you	your, yours
they	them	their, theirs

The Nominative Case

4a. A subject of a verb is in the nominative case.

EXAMPLES I enjoy Gary Soto's stories. [*I* is the subject of *enjoy*.]
He and **she** sold tickets. [*He* and *she* are the subjects of *sold*.]

To choose the correct pronoun in a compound subject, try each form of the pronoun separately.

EXAMPLE: (*He, Him*) and (*I, me*) read "Paul Revere's Ride" to the class.

He read "Paul Revere's Ride" to the class.

Him read "Paul Revere's Ride" to the class.

I read "Paul Revere's Ride" to the class.

Me read "Paul Revere's Ride" to the class.

ANSWER: **He** and **I** read "Paul Revere's Ride" to the class.

4b. A predicate nominative is in the nominative case.

EXAMPLES The last one to leave was **he**. [*He* identifies the subject *one*.]
Do you think it may have been **they**? [*They* identifies the subject *it*.]

The Objective Case

4c. A direct object is in the objective case.

EXAMPLES Ernie surprised **him**. [*Him* tells *whom* Ernie surprised.]
She read some Norse myths and enjoyed **them**. [*Them* tells *what* she enjoyed.]

To choose the correct pronoun in a compound direct object, try each form of the pronoun separately.

EXAMPLE: Charlie met Joe and (*he, him*) at the factory.
Charlie met *he* at the factory.
Charlie met *him* at the factory.

ANSWER: Charlie met Joe and **him** at the factory.

4d. An indirect object is in the objective case.

EXAMPLES Mrs. Flowers lent **her** a book of poems. [*Her* tells *to whom* Mrs. Flowers lent a book.]
Lana takes good care of her cockatiel and often feeds it fresh spinach. [*It* tells *to what* Lana feeds spinach.]

To choose the correct pronoun in a compound indirect object, try each form of the pronoun separately.

EXAMPLE: Ebenezer Dorset sent Bill and (*he, him*) a note.
Ebenezer Dorset sent *he* a note.
Ebenezer Dorset sent *him* a note.

ANSWER: Ebenezer Dorset sent Bill and **him** a note.

4e. An object of a preposition is in the objective case.

EXAMPLES Johnny wanted to stay with **them**. [object of the preposition *with*]
Laurie talked about **him** almost every day. [object of the preposition *about*]


To choose the correct pronoun when the object of a preposition is compound, try each form of the pronoun separately in the sentence.


EXAMPLE: Anne stood behind (*he, him*) and (*she, her*).
Anne stood behind *he*.
Anne stood behind *him*.
Anne stood behind *she*.
Anne stood behind *her*.


ANSWER: Anne stood behind **him** and **her**.

QUICK CHECK I

For each of the sentences on the following page, choose the correct pronoun in parentheses.

 For more about direct objects, see pages 937–938.

 For more about indirect objects, see page 938.

 For a list of prepositions, see page 899. For more about prepositional phrases, see pages 922 and 923–924.

Pronouns 5

■ Uses of Pronouns



For each numbered sentence below, write the underlined pronoun or pronouns and identify each as a "subject pronoun," an "object pronoun," or a "possessive pronoun."

Example: Are you aware of the strange creatures of the sea?

Answer: you (subject pronoun)

(1) It is home to lobsters, octopuses, and jellyfish, but one of its most unusual inhabitants has to be the squid. Squid range in size from a few inches to more than 50 feet. (2) Ten arms help them swim. (3) They move—always backward—by forcing water through a special valve that acts like a jet engine. (4) This backward motion probably confuses any fish that might want to eat them. (5) A squid can also release an inky cloud that covers its escape.

(6) Even though giant squid live in deep, dark water, their eyes are the largest in the animal kingdom, and they have excellent eyesight. (7) This allows them to find food easily. Their one great natural enemy is the sperm whale; however, people also catch tons of squid. (8) We use them as bait for other fish and, of course, as food for us, too. (9) (My dad loves to eat squid at restaurants.)

Steve O'Shea is a New Zealand zoologist and an expert on squid. (10) He and his team of researchers recently caught what they call a "colossal" squid—even larger than the 50-foot giant squid. (11) He says, "You are not going to want to meet these in the water." (12) I have to believe him!

Next Step: Write two or three sentences about a sea creature. Use the pronoun *it* in its subject, object, and possessive forms.

