

23.1

The Three Cases of Personal Pronouns

• Practice 2

Exercise 1

Identifying Case. In each blank space, identify the case of the personal pronoun that is underlined in each of the following sentences.

EXAMPLE: Didn't Richard give her the directions? objective

- After an hour of cleaning flounder, Winnie lost her taste for fish. pos
- He dedicated the book to his children. sub
- Spring came at last; a month of rain came with it. sub
- Show me the trick that you learned. obj
- The last people in the auditorium were Ian and I. sub
- Carlos saw her once again at the foot of the staircase. pos
- At least the land is ours, no matter what happens to the house. pos
- The twins stopped crying when Rolfie swung them both in the air. obj
- She would like to learn how to ski down the intermediate slope. sub
- Does any one of you know how to write a sonnet? sub
- As Harry walked up the winding staircase, he felt more and more curious. sub
- After eating too much, Gwendolyn felt that her waistband was too tight. pos
- "This bracelet belongs to me!" said Sheree, as she snatched it from Lois. obj
- Reuben said that it didn't matter to him if Sean came along. obj
- "Is it your turn or mine?" asked Boris, pointing to the trash can. pos

Exercise 2

Identifying Case. The following passage contains twenty personal pronouns. Underline each personal pronoun and write it on a line in the appropriate column.

EXAMPLE: I bought four baseball tickets. Nominative Case Objective Case Possessive Case

I

Jodie looked out at the members of her audience. They stared back at her. "Oh, no!" Jodie thought. "I have forgotten my lines!" As Jodie looked at her director, he pretended to be watering a plant. "Ah!" thought Jodie. Immediately, she walked to the table and took the plant off it, saying, "Let me give you some water."

Then Sam walked onto the stage, speaking his line. "If I had my way, we would get rid of that plant. Three of them have not done well. Their needs are not being met."

The director smiled from the sidelines. His play would be fine.

<u>Nominative Case</u>	<u>Objective Case</u>	<u>Possessive Case</u>
<u>They</u>	<u>her</u>	<u>her</u>
<u>I</u>	<u>it</u>	<u>my</u>
<u>he</u>	<u>me</u>	<u>her</u>
<u>she</u>	<u>you</u>	<u>his</u>
<u>I</u>	<u>them</u>	<u>their</u>
<u>we</u>		<u>pos</u>

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• Practice 1

The Three Cases of Personal Pronouns Pronouns have three cases: nominative, objective, and possessive.

Case	CASE FORMS OF PERSONAL PRONOUNS	
	Use in Sentence	Forms
Nominative	Subject of a Verb Predicate Pronoun	I, we; you; he, she, it, they
Objective	Direct Object Indirect Object Object of a Preposition	me, us; you; him, her, it, them
Possessive	To Show Ownership	my, mine; our, ours; your, yours; his, her, its, their, theirs

subjunctive

KEY

Exercise 1

Identifying Pronoun Case. Write the case of each underlined pronoun in the space to the right.

EXAMPLE: The judges awarded her a blue ribbon. objective

- The audience gave them a standing ovation. obj
- As usual, the first one to finish was he. sub
- The yellow house with the brown shutters is theirs. pos
- They will probably need our help after all. sub
- The notebook with the checkered cover is his. pos
- This bike is Terry's; mine is red and white. pos
- If anyone deserves an apology, it is you. sub
- Paul takes his radio with him everywhere. obj
- Carla and I were born on the same day. sub
- The speaker's reply surprised us. obj

Exercise 2

Identifying Pronoun Case. Write the case of each underlined pronoun.

EXAMPLE: Mrs. Wang helped them with their makeup. objective

- The tornado was heading right toward us. obj
- Rachel and she have been friends since childhood. sub
- The principal gave Tom and me a warning. obj
- The players bring their own rackets. pos
- I must write her a thank-you note. obj
- Of course it was he who hid the birthday cake. sub
- Ms. Sanchez took us on a tour of the automobile manufacturing plant. obj
- Don't forget to bring your camera along. pos
- Linda and he are in charge of refreshments. sub
- Dad will drive them to school tomorrow. obj

24.2 Agreement Between Pronouns and Antecedents • Practice 1

Making Personal Pronouns and Antecedents Agree A personal pronoun must agree with its antecedent in both person and number. Use a singular personal pronoun to refer to two or more singular antecedents joined by *or* or *nor*.

PRONOUN-ANTECEDENT AGREEMENT
My sister just passed <i>her</i> driving test.
Joan and I agreed to keep <i>our</i> secret.
Neither Dana nor Ellen was in <i>her</i> room when I called.

Agreement Between Personal Pronouns and Indefinite Pronouns Generally use a singular personal pronoun when its antecedent is a singular indefinite pronoun. When a prepositional phrase follows an indefinite pronoun, the personal pronoun must agree with the indefinite pronoun, not with the object of the preposition.

AGREEMENT WITH INDEFINITE PRONOUNS	
Incorrect	Correct
Each of the players removed <i>their</i> cap.	Each of the players removed <i>his</i> cap.
Does <i>everybody</i> have <i>their</i> ticket?	Does <i>everybody</i> have <i>his</i> ticket?

Exercise 1 Making Pronouns and Antecedents Agree. Write an appropriate personal pronoun to complete each sentence.

EXAMPLE: Has either Marc or Nate taken his turn yet?

- Students should remember to return their library books before vacation.
- Betsy or Lois will lend you his racket.
- My brother and I visited our cousins last week.
- The spectators rose to their feet almost as one.
- Linda's dream is to pilot her own plane.
- Neither Jack nor Luis had much money with him.
- The kitten had a wedge-shaped black spot on its forehead.
- All cast members are expected to know their lines by Thursday.
- Rachel wanted to go to Mexico and try out her Spanish.
- The coach and the players have their work cut out for them.

Exercise 2 Making Personal Pronouns and Indefinite Pronouns Agree. Underline the pronoun in parentheses that correctly completes each sentence.

EXAMPLE: Each of the soldiers pledged (his, their) loyalty.

- Either of the twins will know (her, their) uncle's address.
- Before you use one of the encyclopedias, check (its, their) copyright date.
- Neither of the brothers has ever regretted (his, their) choice.
- Everyone in the first two classes returned (his, their) books on time.
- Each of the sisters has (her, their) own version of what happened.

24.2

Agreement Between Pronouns and Antecedents • Practice 2

Exercise 1

Making Pronouns and Antecedents Agree. For each of the following sentences, fill in the blank with an appropriate pronoun.

EXAMPLE: The children had left their toys all over the living room.

1. Lucy was hoping that her name would be chosen.
2. Bob and Chris planned their work carefully.
3. Each girl was asked to give her own opinion.
4. All pilots are likely to remember their first flights.
5. Either Katie or Jenny will ask her parents to drive us to the dance.
6. Each boy had to memorize his lines for the skit to be given that night.
7. Lisa learned to ski so that she could join the teenagers on the slope.
8. Neither Jeremy nor Ian was willing to lend us his stereo.
9. Cathy and Linda wanted to try on their new uniforms immediately.
10. When they were young, Neil and Sally spent hours playing with their blocks.

Exercise 2

Avoiding Shifts in Person and Number. Each sentence contains a single error in pronoun-antecedent agreement. Rewrite each sentence correctly, underlining the pronoun that you have changed and its antecedent.

EXAMPLE: Each member of the girls' swim team spends much of their free time practicing.

Each member of the girls' swim team spends much of her free time practicing.

1. Julio now knows that ~~you~~ can't play in the school band without practicing.
he
2. Either Curtis or Tim will bring ~~their~~ surfboard today.
his
3. Each fish in the aquarium acted as if ~~they~~ could not be bothered by our attention.
it
4. All students should know that ~~you~~ have to register today.
they
5. The puppies rolled over and kicked ~~its~~ legs.
their

23.1

Cases of Personal Pronouns (Nominative, Objective) • Practice 1

The Nominative Case Use the nominative case for the subject or predicate pronoun.

USES OF THE NOMINATIVE CASE	
Subject	<i>They</i> folded the parachutes carefully. Luis and <i>she</i> received the most votes.
Predicate Pronoun	Was that <i>she</i> who just called? The two pianists are Betsy and <i>he</i> .

The Objective Case Use the objective case for a direct object, an indirect object, and the object of a preposition.

USES OF THE OBJECTIVE CASE	
Direct Object	The class elected <i>her</i> . The Penguins beat <i>us</i> by two points.
Indirect Object	Our neighbor gave <i>us</i> two free tickets. The judges awarded <i>them</i> duplicate prizes.
Object of a Preposition	You may leave the message with Ellen or <i>her</i> . Do you have an extra ticket for <i>me</i> ?

Exercise 1 Identifying Pronouns in the Nominative Case. Circle the correct nominative pronoun from the choices in parentheses. Then write S (for subject) or PP (for predicate pronoun) to indicate its use.

EXAMPLE: The first person to volunteer was (she, her). PP

- Elena and (he, him) went to a party on Saturday night. _____
- Is that (she, her) already? It's still very early. _____
- (They, Them) are the best in the class in most subjects. _____
- You and (I, me) know the recipe for meatloaf. _____
- The co-captains (are Tom and (he, him). _____
- Maria and (she, her) stayed up too late last night. _____
- "It could have been (he, him)," Mary said thoughtfully. _____
- (Her, She) and I have been friends for a long time. _____
- Angie and (he, him) are eating apples in the garden. _____
- The Halls and (us, we) contributed to the Red Cross. _____

Exercise 2 Identifying Pronouns in the Objective Case. Circle the objective pronoun from the choices in parentheses. Then write DO (for direct object), IO (for indirect object), or OP (for object of a preposition) to indicate its use.

EXAMPLE: The class sent (she, her) a get-well card. IO

- Please come to the supermarket with Mom and (I, me). _____
- Two witnesses identified (he, him) during the trial. _____
- Had you met (she, her) before the party last night? _____
- Mom gave (they, them) some good advice about the problem. _____
- Leave Jim and (he, him) a shopping list and the car keys. _____

23.1**Cases of Personal Pronouns (Nominative, Objective) • Practice 2****Exercise 1**

Using Personal Pronouns in the Nominative Case. Complete each of the following sentences by writing an appropriate nominative pronoun. Then indicate how each pronoun is used in the sentence.

EXAMPLE: We think that this photograph is best. subject

- I cannot remember what happened. _____
- It must be she; no one else would arrive this late in the evening. _____
- Willard and I will set up the tent. _____
- The door creaked open, and a voice from outside said, "It is I..." _____
- The maples are turning red; soon they will be losing their leaves. _____
- When Bart's dog was sent to those groomers, he came back looking embarrassed and bald. _____
- The person who did this is he. _____
- My contest entry was postmarked early, but it got lost in the mail. _____
- When the wind blows this way, we can hear the music. _____
- The first people to speak after the announcement were Tony and she. _____

Exercise 2

Using Personal Pronouns in the Objective Case. Complete each of the following sentences by writing an appropriate objective pronoun. Then indicate how each pronoun is used in the sentence.

EXAMPLE: Why didn't Edwin invite me to this dinner? direct object

- If Mark and Susie leave now, who will go with me? _____
- Teresa showed her the sealed envelope containing the secret formula. _____
- This speech was drafted for him by a new member of the staff. _____
- When you catch the brass ring, throw it at that large painted clown. _____
- Unfortunately, John made a mistake and told her the plans for the surprise party. _____
- The helicopter lifted Jo and him high up over the city. _____
- The donation was a secret between Tracy and me. _____
- As the song went on and on, Kit made faces at him. _____
- The man in the ticket booth sold us four seats for the 9:30 show. _____
- Chris hugged the baby girl and then set her down in the crib. _____

23.1**Cases of Personal Pronouns (Possessive)****• Practice 1**

The Possessive Case Use the possessive case of personal pronouns to show possession before nouns. Also use certain possessive pronouns by themselves to show possession.

USES OF THE POSSESSIVE CASE	
Before Nouns	The cat licked <i>its</i> paws. <i>Our</i> team was far behind.
Alone	Here is your pen; this one is <i>mine</i> . The notebook on the table is <i>hers</i> .

Exercise 1 Using Personal Pronouns in the Possessive Case. Write the correct word from the choices in parentheses to complete each sentence.

EXAMPLE: Steve, may I borrow your binoculars? (your, yours)

- Neither of these raincoats is _____. (my, mine)
- Eric forgot _____ lunch money again. (he, his)
- _____ is the package with the red bow on it. (Your, Yours)
- The cat arched _____ back and hissed. (it's, its)
- The two suspects claimed that the money was _____. (their's, theirs)
- Please return that book to _____ proper place on the shelf. (its, it's)
- Is this fielder's glove _____? (your's, yours)
- The boy hid near the pirates and overheard _____ plans. (them, their)
- _____ is the racket with the plaid cover. (Her's, Hers)
- Surely that bus turning the corner must be _____. (our, ours)

Exercise 2 Using All Three Cases. Complete each sentence with the appropriate pronoun form. The number in parentheses tells which set of pronouns to choose from for each sentence.

- (1) I, me, my, mine (3) he, him, his; it, its (4) we, us, our, ours
(2) you, your, yours she, her, hers (5) they, them, their, theirs

EXAMPLE: The coach took Rosa aside and complemented her on her play. (3)

- It was I who left the message earlier. (1)
- The white rowboat with the green trim is ours. (4)
- When we saw Mr. Anders, we told him about the leaking faucet. (3)
- I am sure that the tan van we passed was theirs. (5)
- You and I should play doubles more often. (1)
- Alex asked me to ride with Terry and him. (3)
- Yours is the white house on the corner, isn't it? (2)
- The witch asked the children into her house and gave them milk and cookies. (5)
- The most surprised of all were Mrs. Dugan and I. (1)
- Betsy and she won the girls' doubles tournament. (3)

23.1

Cases of Personal Pronouns (Possessive)**• Practice 2**

Exercise 1 Using Personal Pronouns in the Possessive Case. For each of the following sentences, choose the correct word from the choices in parentheses and write it in the blank.

EXAMPLE: Now that Kim has gone away to school, this room is all yours. (yours, your's)

- The dog eats _____ food as if there were no tomorrow. (it's, its)
- Kip has difficulty keeping _____ shoelaces tied. (his', his)
- The boat is _____, but we can use it. (theirs, their's)
- How many of these albums are _____? (our's, ours)
- Rita said that some of the records are _____. (hers, her's)
- Every other poem in the literary magazine is _____. (your's, yours)
- _____ my problem, not David's. (Its, it's)
- I wrote the melody, but the lyrics are _____. (his', his)
- I always forget which house is _____. (your's, yours)
- The thermometer reached _____ highest point for the year today. (its, it's)

Exercise 2 Checking the Case of Personal Pronouns. Many of the underlined pronouns in the following sentences are incorrect. Circle each error and write the form of the pronoun that should be used in the blank. For sentences without any errors, write *correct*.

EXAMPLE: Here are your clothes and your books; this room must be your's. yours

- The singers in the opening number will be Patty, Maxine, and me. I
- Aunt Bertie trained the cat and changed it's habits. its
- When our grandmother arrived, the conductor helped her off the train. C
- The judges couldn't choose between her and I. me
- You will be happy to hear that the assignment is now yours. C
- Delia showed José and I the diagrams. me
- Its the first house on the left in that block. It's
- It was he who ate my pie. C
- Elijah and Clarice could not believe that their's was the winning ticket. theirs
- Kevin, Larry, and me are studying together. I