

Other Pronoun Rules

1. Pronouns which follow linking verbs (*be, being, been, am, is, are, was, were,* and forms of *seem, appear, remain,* and *become*) should be in the subject form (*I, he, she, we, they*).

Example: It was *I* whom you saw at the mall.

Was it *she* who won the scholarship?

The winner could have been *he*, but I'm not really sure.

2. Pronouns which follow *than* or *as* are usually subject pronouns.

Example: He is taller than *I*. (*You mean, "He is taller than I am."*)

Are they as capable as *we*? (*You mean, "Are they as capable as we are?"*)

3. When *we* or *us* are followed by a noun, use the same form of the pronoun that you would use if the noun were omitted.

Example: *We* boys will set up the tents and look for firewood.

(If you omit *boys*, you would say, "*We will set up the tents and look for firewood.*")

No one appreciates *us* boys.

(If you omit *boys*, you would say, "*No one appreciates us.*")

4. Appositive pronouns (pronouns that are renaming the nouns they follow) are in the same form as the word they rename. If the appositive renames a subject, use a subject pronoun. If it renames an object, use an object pronoun.

Example: The faculty chose three finalists—Tom, Robert, and *me*.

(*Finalists* is an object, so you need the object pronoun *me*).

The three finalists—Tom, Robert, and *I*—were best friends.

(*Finalists* is a subject, so you need the subject pronoun *I*).

Exercise One: Choose the correct pronoun in each sentence below.

1. Bess did not sell as many subscriptions as (*I, me*).
2. It was probably (*he, him*) who caused the accident.
3. She gave (*we, us*) girls the responsibility for collecting the money.
4. The co-chairmen, Frederick and (*I, me*), could not agree.
5. I know that we will work harder than (*they, them*).
6. Had it been (*she, her*), I would have understood.
7. (*We, us*) athletes understand the value of eating right and exercising.
8. Trophies were given to the top golfers, Max and (*I, me*).
9. My little brother is short, but he weighs more than (*I, me*).
10. I can drive as well as (*he, him*), but I'm just a little careless.

Exercise Two: Circle the incorrect pronouns in the sentences below. Refer to all rules for using pronouns.

1. No one except (he, him) and Bernice went to the party.
2. Although (he, him) and Carrie took their coats, they did not wear them.
3. The class chose (he, him) and (she, her) to go to Washington for the inauguration.
4. I did not know about (him, his) going to college at Ole Miss.
5. No one is as smart as (she, her).
6. This is (she, her), my cousin who works for the college.
7. The winners, Billy and (I, me), will receive a savings bond.
8. All but (he, him) and Thomas have completed the CPA preparation exam.
9. Mother said it was (she, her) who bought the last armchair.
10. Among (we, us) boys competition is fierce.
11. Mother doubted the wisdom of (us, our) staying out late on a school night.
12. (You, Your) studying for the test all week was a very wise idea.
13. It was (he, him) who was upset over the new tax laws.
14. The teacher said this book must be (yours, your's).
15. Tyler told Chris and (he, him) about his camping trip.

Pronoun Case

Pronouns are words which take the place of nouns. Pronouns change form, depending on how they are used in a sentence. Some pronouns are used as objects and some as subjects. The pronouns that change form are used correctly in the following sentences.

Subject Pronouns

I went to the grocery store.
He bought soft drinks and chips.
She bought candy and cookies.
We ate all afternoon.
They wanted to share our food.

Object Pronouns

Tom sent **me** a letter.
I gave the letter to **him**.
Mrs. Jones told **her** the story.
We showed **them** the jewels.
The bus driver likes **us**.

Most students do not have problem with pronouns unless they are used in compound constructions. Notice the incorrect and correct uses of pronouns below.

Incorrect

Tom and **me** went to the store.
The taxi picked up Mary and **I**.

Correct

Tom and **I** went to the store.
The taxi picked up Mary and **me**.

When deciding what pronoun to use in a compound construction, rewrite each part as if it were a separate sentence. Then it will be easy to choose the correct pronoun.

*Tom went to the store. I went to the store. (**I** is correct.)
The taxi picked up Mary. The taxi picked up me. (**Me** is correct.)*

Note: *Between* is a preposition and takes an object pronoun. The correct construction is *between you and me*, not *between you and I*.

Note: *But* is a preposition when it means *except*. It takes an object pronoun.

Exercise: Correct each incorrect sentence by crossing out the incorrect pronoun and writing the correct pronoun above it. Some sentences are correct.

1. Josh and him met on Saturday to work on their plans for the campaign.
2. The judges gave both Robert and me a trophy since we tied for first place.
3. Should Marie and she expect to see you at the game?
4. Both him and his sister graduated from Delta State University.
5. The instructor told Paul and I to do more extensive research on our topics.
6. Allen went to a Saints' game with my brother and I.

7. Stacy and them are coming over to watch movies tonight.
8. Me and my father have a good relationship even though he is strict.
9. From the top of the mountain, Nancy and I could see the village.
10. Between you and I, Mrs. Woods is not a very good cook.
11. If you and I work together, we can finish more quickly.
12. Ellen is such a good tutor that the children never want anyone but her.
13. The old woman down the street promised Allison and I five dollars apiece if we would rake her yard.
14. The lifeguard told my cousin and I to quit clowning around.
15. The committee chose he and she to serve as co-chairpersons.

Pronouns Ending in –Self

Pronouns ending in the word *–self* are called reflexive or intensive pronouns. Their use is sometimes confusing. Several rules regarding reflexive pronouns are listed below.

- Never use the expression *hisself* because it is not a word. Use *himself* instead.
- Never use *theirselves*. Use *themselves* instead.
- Never use *ourself* or *themself*. Use *ourselves* and *themselves*.
- Never use *myself* when you can use *I* or *me*. The same is true for *himself*, *herself*, and other reflexive pronouns.

Below are several examples of the correct use of reflexive pronouns.

- John wrote the paper **himself**, though his instructor thought that he had received help.
- They paid for the house **themselves**, with no help at all from their parents.
- We treated **ourselves** to chocolate sundaes.
- I hurt **myself** when I tripped on the stairs.
- I **myself** will supervise the instruction.

Exercise: In each sentence below, cross out the incorrect pronoun and write the correct pronoun above it. Some sentences are correct.

1. Jonathan and myself will pick you up at the airport this evening.
2. I had told myself that I would be careful, but I became distracted by the radio.
3. We all gave ourself a pat on the back when the performance was over.
4. They theirselves will do the carpentry work because they do not trust anyone else to do the job right.
5. Mark and himself will cook supper for the entire team.
6. He himself will deliver the package.
7. We hurt only ourselves when we do less than our best.
8. Do you want to join Rob and myself for dinner this evening?
9. Matt cheated hissself by quitting the team.
10. She gave herself permission to go off her diet, but she still felt guilty.

Using *Who* and *Whom*

The pronouns *who* and *whom* are often confusing. *Who* is a subject pronoun and *whom* is an object pronoun, but many students have trouble determining subjects and objects. An easy way to decide whether to use *who* or *whom* is to substitute the words *he* and *him*. Wherever the word *he* is appropriate, the word *who* can be used. Wherever the word *him* is appropriate, *whom* can be used.

Example: (Who, Whom) is responsible for the accident?

Substitute *he* or *him* for *who* or *whom*.

He is responsible for the accident.

Who is responsible for the accident?

Example: The man (who, whom) was driving the Mercedes is responsible.

Take out the words, (*who, whom*) *was driving the Mercedes*.

Substitute *he* or *him*.

He was driving the Mercedes.

The man **who** was driving the Mercedes was responsible.

Example: (Who, Whom) did the committee choose as chairman?

Turn the question around and substitute *he* or *him*.

The committee did choose **him** as chairman.

Whom did the committee choose as chairman?

Example: Mr. Adams was the man (who, whom) the committee chose.

Take out the words, (*who, whom*) *the committee chose*.

Turn the clause around and substitute *he* or *him*.

The committee chose **him**.

Mr. Adams was the man **whom** the committee chose.

Exercise 1: Fill in each blank below with *who* or *whom*.

1. I know _____ you should ask to coordinate the service project .
2. We appointed only those _____ we knew would do an excellent job.
3. That is the girl _____ bought my mom's old van.
4. _____ played the violin solo in the Christmas concert?
5. With _____ was she speaking?
6. People _____ bring joy into the lives of others cannot keep it from themselves.
7. The artist _____ I was talking about is my cousin.

8. The technician _____ repaired the computers was intelligent and efficient.
9. _____ is the woman sitting beside your mother?
10. The man _____ the police arrested was not the man who robbed the bank.
11. To _____ did you send the flowers?
12. The guitar player _____ you met at the party is well-known throughout the state.
13. _____ do most students believe to be the best contemporary novelist?
14. _____ did the Student Government Association choose as president?
15. The people _____ had waited in line for hours were growing restless and angry.

***Who* and *Whom* can be joined with *ever* to form compound pronouns. *Whoever* is used as a subject and *whomever* is used as an object.**

Exercise 2: Fill in each blank below with *whoever* or *whomever*.

1. You may give that book to _____ wants it.
2. You may invite _____ you choose to the party.
3. I think that _____ takes this course will become a better writer.
4. Do you realize that _____ is elected president of the Student Government Association will have to make a speech in front of the faculty?
5. _____ you select to serve on the committee will have a huge responsibility.
6. The criminal, _____ he is, ought to pay for his crime.
7. Give the keys to _____ knows the password.
8. _____ installed the printer didn't check to see that it was working properly.