

Lesson 1

Nominative and Objective Cases

Teaching

Personal pronouns change form depending on how they function in a sentence. The form of a pronoun is called its **case**. The cases are nominative, objective, and possessive.

		Nominative	Objective	Possessive
Singular	First Person	I	me	my, mine
	Second Person	you	you	your, yours
	Third Person	he, she, it	him, her, it	his, her, hers, its
Plural	First Person	we	us	our, ours
	Second Person	you	you	your, yours
	Third Person	they	them	their, theirs

The **nominative form** of a personal pronoun is used when the pronoun functions as a subject, as part of a compound subject, or as a predicate nominative. A pronoun used as a predicate nominative is called a **predicate pronoun**. It takes the nominative case.

- SUBJECT** She is my mother's niece.
- PART OF COMPOUND SUBJECT** She and I are cousins.
- PREDICATE PRONOUN** The cousin I most resemble is she.

The **objective form** of a personal pronoun is used when the pronoun functions as a direct object, indirect object, or object of a preposition. Use it also when the pronoun is part of a compound object, or when it's used with an infinitive. An **infinitive** is the base form of a verb preceded by the word *to* —*to visit, to jog, to play*.

- DIRECT OBJECT** You can see her in these old family portraits.
- INDIRECT OBJECT** My aunt sent me invitations to her wedding.
- OBJECT OF PREPOSITION** A distant cousin has been searching for us.
- PART OF COMPOUND OBJECT** My aunt reserved rooms for them and us.
- INFINITIVE** Julie and Courtney went to visit him.

To decide which case to use in a compound construction, consider each part separately.

A. Identifying the Case of a Pronoun

Identify the case of each boldfaced personal pronoun in the following sentences. On the line write **N** for nominative or **O** for objective.

1. My uncle, my mother's brother, is an attorney, but **he** really only wants to paint. _____
2. He painted a portrait of my mother and gave it to **her** as a wedding present. _____
3. My mother painted, too, but **she** said he was the talented one. _____
4. She said their mother had wanted **them** both to go to art school. _____
5. My mother said, "I wish **we** both had listened to her." _____

B. Using the Correct Case of Personal Pronouns

Underline the correct pronoun to complete each sentence.

1. It was (he, him) who made the posters for our election campaign.
2. When will Burt and (I, me) get our turn to participate in that program?
3. The extreme wind-chill factor left Teresa and (I, me) shivering.

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CHAPTER 6

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More Practice

A. Using the Correct Case of Personal Pronouns

In each sentence, underline the correct pronoun form.

1. My grandfather was a carpenter; (he, him) made beautiful cabinets.
2. My grandmother baked a pie for (we, us) every Sunday.
3. (Her, She) and I used to go shopping together.
4. She taught (me, I) how to cook and sew.
5. Baking was harder, and I never could do it as well as (her, she).
6. Women of the family have to help each other out, (she, her) said.
7. My grandfather and (she, her) didn't always get along.
8. (They, Them) were my grandparents on my father's side.
9. My mother's parents lived in Texas, so we didn't see (them, they) very often.
10. They sent me a chess set, and I still have (it, them).
11. When I was 13, I flew to Texas to visit (them, they).
12. My Texas grandmother and (me, I) went shopping in Austin.

B. Choosing Personal Pronouns

In the following sentences, fill in the blanks with the appropriate personal pronouns. Vary the person and number of the pronouns, and do not use the pronoun *you*.

1. The mail carrier brought _____ the current edition of the magazine.
2. Corinne and _____ discussed the plays of Arthur Miller.
3. The swimming coach sent Evan and _____ to a special backstroke coach.
4. Despite early difficulties, _____ and the rest of the cast got along well.
5. I am certain that I gave _____ the tickets.
6. It must have been _____ who sang a Verdi opera.
7. Be sure to leave the extra copies of the flyer for _____ and _____.
8. If you need a ride home, call Frank's dad or _____.
9. After graduation, my parents gave my twin and _____ a trip to Washington.
10. Are Michelle and _____ responsible for closing the theater?

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Application

A. Proofreading

Proofread the following story to make sure that the correct cases of pronouns have been used. When you find a pronoun used incorrectly, cross it out. Then insert this proofreading symbol \sphericalangle and write the correct pronoun above it.

If you and me had the same mother and father, then we would be sister and brother. If we had only one parent in common, however, our relationship would be different. Him and her, for example, both have the same father, but not the same mother. George and her are half brother and half sister. Did I tell you about Jackie and him, who are stepsister and stepbrother? We know she and him from school. Jackie and him don't have either parent in common. Jackie's father and Bill's mother are married to each other, but that marriage didn't make him Bill's father or her Jackie's mother.

B. Using Personal Pronouns in Writing

Write a paragraph about your own (or a friend's) family, describing the relationships among the various members. Be sure to use personal pronouns correctly.
