

CCSS Writing 10; Language 1. (See pp. T14–T15.)

Pronouns

Part
2.2

Lesson 5.2 Grammar

▶ **Pronouns** are words that take the place of a noun or other pronouns.

Most—but not all—pronouns clearly refer to another word in the sentence or in a preceding sentence. The word the pronoun replaces is called its **antecedent**. In the following sentences, arrows point to the antecedents of the pronouns.

Terra and **her** sister are disc jockeys. **They** have a radio program on Saturday morning. **It** is on WZZZ.

The list at the right shows different types of pronouns.

▶ The pronouns you use the most are the **personal pronouns** and their **possessive forms**.

PERSONAL I went with **him** to the movies.
POSSESSIVE **My** cat licks **her** chops at **their** parakeet.

▶ **Indefinite pronouns** express an amount or refer to an unspecified person or thing.

Most of us studied. **Somebody** sneezed.
Anything you can do, I can do better.

▶ **Demonstrative pronouns** point to specific people or things.

That is Ivan's cousin. **Those** are mine.
This will go down in history.

▶ **Interrogative pronouns** begin a question.

Who has the key? **What** is the problem?

▶ **Reflexive pronouns** end in *-self* or *-selves* and refer to an earlier noun or pronoun in the sentence. **Intensive pronouns** add emphasis.

Tricia cut **herself** slicing a bagel.
I **myself** don't believe the story.

For information about **relative pronouns** and **adjective clauses**, see Lesson 8.2.

EDITING TIP

Possessive pronouns never take an apostrophe.

The dog wagged ^{its} tail.

That backpack is ^{hers}.

Personal Pronouns

I	me	we	us
you	he	him	she

Possessive Pronouns

my	her
mine	hers
your	his
yours	their
our	theirs
ours	its

Some Indefinite Pronouns

all	another
any	anybody
anyone	anything
both	each
either	everybody
everyone	everything
few	most
many	neither
nobody	none
no one	one
several	some
somebody	someone

Demonstrative Pronouns

this	these
that	those

Some Interrogative Pronouns

Who?	Whom?
Whose?	What?
Which?	

Reflexive and Intensive Pronouns

myself	yourself
himself	herself
itself	ourselves
yourselves	themselves

CCSS Writing 10; Speaking and Listening 1; Language 1. (See pp. T14–T15.)

Using Subject Pronouns

Subject Pronouns	
SINGULAR	PLURAL
I, you, he, she, it	we, you, they

Use one of these subject pronouns when the pronoun functions as the subject (s) of a sentence or a clause.

Mitsuko and **I** are designing a time capsule.

We will present our design to the student council.

Use a subject pronoun when the pronoun functions as the predicate nominative of a sentence or clause.

Remember: A **predicate nominative** (PN) is a noun or pronoun that follows a form of *be* and renames or identifies the subject.

The committee members are Mitsuko, Howard, and **I**.

The persons in charge of the project are Kevin and **she**.

P.S. You probably use subject pronouns correctly when the pronoun is alone. Watch out for compound subjects, as in the first example above.

EXERCISE 1 Choosing the Correct Pronoun

Underline the pronoun in parentheses that correctly completes each sentence.

EXAMPLE The persons who thought of a time capsule are Soia and (him, he).

- Julio and (her, she) wrote to the International Time Capsule Society (ITCS).
- (Them, They) sent us information about time capsules.
- (Him and me, He and I) will find a place to bury the capsule.
- The ones who register our capsule with the ITCS are (us, we).
- Noam, Helena, and (him, he) are in charge of publicity.

Lesson 11.1

Usage

Part
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WRITING HINT

If someone asks, "Who's there?" you probably answer, "It's me," not "It's I." But in speeches, in essays, and on grammar tests, be sure to use a subject pronoun when the pronoun comes after a form of *be*: "It is I." "It is we."

STEP BY STEP

To decide which pronoun to use:

Laura and (me, I) want to borrow a CD.

1. Say the sentence with just the pronoun.

Me want to borrow a CD.
[sounds wrong]

I want to borrow a CD.
[sounds right]

2. Use the pronoun that sounds right in the compound subject.

Laura and **I** want to borrow a CD.

CCSS Language 1. (See pp. T14–T15.)

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Using Object Pronouns

Lesson 11.2 Usage

Object Pronouns	
SINGULAR	PLURAL
me, you, him, her, it	us, you, them

Use an object pronoun when the pronoun functions as the direct object (DO) or indirect object (IO) of a sentence or a clause.

DO DO
Jana told Derek and **me** about her homing pigeons.

IO DO
She showed **us** several of her favorite pigeons.

Use an object pronoun (OP) when the pronoun functions as the object of a preposition in a sentence.

OP
One of her pigeons delivered a message to Ana and **me**.

OP
For Jana and **us**, the pigeons arrive faster than mail.

When an object is compound, use the Step-by-Step approach you learned on page 193. Test each pronoun alone, and say the sentence aloud to yourself. Your ear will tell you which pronoun to use.

EDITING TIP

Be sure to use an object pronoun when the pronoun functions as the object of a preposition. Avoid these common errors:

RIGHT between you and **me**
WRONG between you and I
RIGHT for Carla and **him**
WRONG for Carla and he

STEP BY STEP

To decide whether to use a subject or an object pronoun:

1. Decide what function the pronoun performs in the sentence.
2. If the pronoun is a subject or a predicate nominative, choose the subject pronoun.
3. If the pronoun is a direct object, an indirect object, or the object of a preposition, choose the object pronoun.

CCSS Language 1, 6. (See pp. T14–T15.)

Who or Whom?

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Lesson 11.3

Usage

Use the subject pronoun *who* when the pronoun functions as a subject or as a predicate nominative in a sentence or in a clause.

Who was chosen as the Most Valuable Player?

[*Who* is the subject of the sentence.]

The player **who** was chosen as the MVP is the Bulls' forward.

[*Who* is the subject of the adjective clause.]

You can check your choice of pronoun by replacing *who/whom* with *he/him* or *she/her*. If *he* sounds right in the sentence, use the subject pronoun *who*. If *him* sounds right, choose the object pronoun *whom*. You'll need to change a question into a statement to test for the right pronoun.

(Who, Whom) did you call?

[Change the question into a statement.]

You did call (who, whom).

[Substitute *he, him* for *who, whom*.]

You did call (he, him).

[When you try out each pronoun, you will hear that *him* sounds right. Therefore, the sentence requires an object pronoun.]

Whom did you call? [*Whom* is the object pronoun.]

Use the object pronoun *whom* when the pronoun functions as the direct object, indirect object, or object of a preposition in a sentence or in a clause.

Please give this note to the first person **whom** you see.

[*Whom* is the direct object of the adjective clause *you see whom*.]

When you are choosing *who* or *whom*, ignore parenthetical expressions (such as *I think* and *I hope*) that interrupt a subordinate clause.

He is the scientist (who, whom), I think, won the Nobel Peace Prize.

[*Who* is the subject of the clause *who won the Nobel Peace Prize*.]

P.S. Most people don't use *whom* when they talk. In formal writing and speaking, however, and on grammar tests, use *whom* whenever the pronoun functions as an object.

Subject Form

who

Object Form

whom

STEP BY STEP

When you need to choose between *who* and *whom*:

1. Decide what function the pronoun performs.
2. Use *who* if the pronoun functions as a subject or a predicate nominative.
3. Use *whom* if the pronoun functions as a direct object, an indirect object, or the object of a preposition.

Enriching Your Vocabulary

The Latin noun *artificium* gives us the English noun *artifice*, meaning "a clever skill" or "trickery." A painter uses *artifice* to create the illusion of a three-dimensional scene on a flat canvas. And, as used in Exercise 5, only an expert may be able to tell the difference between an *artificial* diamond and the real thing.