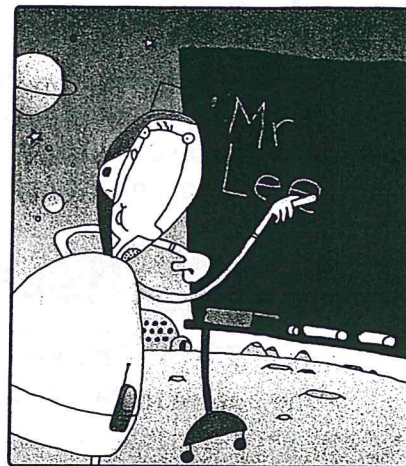


Pronouns

Pronouns are words used in place of nouns. They allow us to communicate clearly and smoothly. Most of the pronouns we use are personal pronouns (*I, we, they, he, her, etc.*), but there are other types as well. The following sentence reveals the importance of pronouns in our language. (Turn to 441.4-445.3 in *Write Source 2000* to find out about all types of pronouns.)



EXAMPLES

Sentence without Pronouns:

Mr. Lee thought that Mr. Lee should write Mr. Lee's name on the board.
(Repeating the noun *Mr. Lee* sounds a little strange.)

Sentence with Pronouns:

Mr. Lee thought that he should write his name on the board.
(Using the pronouns *he* and *his* for *Mr. Lee* makes this sentence smoother and easier to understand.)

Directions

Underline the *personal pronouns* in the following sentences. (The number of personal pronouns in each sentence is given in parentheses.) The first one has been done for you.

1. My husband and I asked our elderly neighbor to plant some trees for us. (4)
2. He dug two ash saplings out of his grove; they had grown there wild. (3)
3. In early spring, he came with them, their roots neatly balled in burlap. (3)
4. I watched as he skillfully planted those trees, his hands knowing exactly what to do. (3)
5. Their branches were full of leaf buds. (1)
6. "When you transplant a tree," he said, "you must leave the taproot as long as possible." (3)
7. With his feet, he firmly tamped down the soil around the roots. (2)
8. As he put his tools away, we asked him in for a cup of coffee. (4)

Possessive Pronouns

Possessive pronouns make your writing read more smoothly. Instead of repeating the same noun or pronoun, you can use the appropriate possessive pronouns, as in the examples below. (See 443.2 in *Write Source 2000* for more information.)

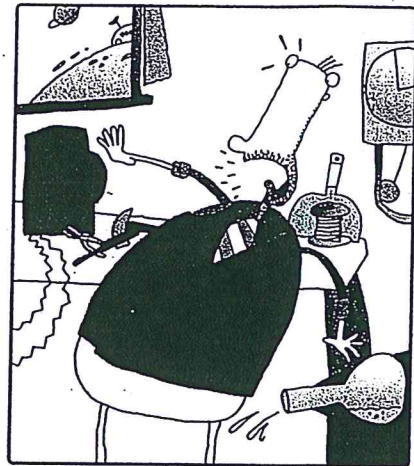
EXAMPLES

Sheila wanted to use (Sheila's) cellular phone.
(Sounds stilted.)

Sheila wanted to use her cellular phone.
(Sounds much better.)

Sheila and I both needed to call (Sheila's and my) parents.
(Needs a possessive pronoun to stand for "Sheila and I.")

She and I both needed to call our parents.
(Correct)



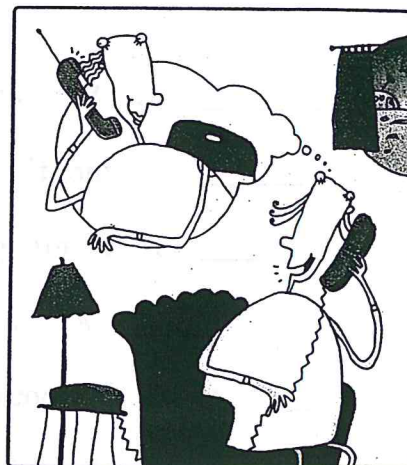
Directions

On the blank before each sentence, write the correct possessive pronoun to replace the nouns or pronouns in parentheses. The first one has been done for you.

1. his Alexander Graham Bell tested (*Alexander Graham Bell's*) famous invention for the first time on March 10, 1876.
2. _____ Bell and Thomas Watson had (*Bell and Watson's*) first telephone communication after an accident involving Bell.
3. _____ The telephone is handy for all kinds of emergencies, and (*the telephone's*) first use was a sort of 911 call.
4. _____ Bell had just spilled battery acid on (*Bell's*) pants and called Watson on the telephone in the next room for help.
5. _____ Imagine what you might have said if you had just spilled acid on (*you*) clothes!

Subject and Object Pronouns

Since pronouns substitute for nouns in a sentence, they are used in the same ways. For example, a *subject pronoun* is used as the subject in a sentence. A subject pronoun is also used after a form of the *be* verb (*is, are, was, were, etc.*). An *object pronoun* can be used as the object of a verb or the object of a preposition. The examples below plus the ones in *Write Source 2000* (442.6-443.1) illustrate these two uses.



EXAMPLES

***I* called Carla about our history assignment.**

(*I* is a subject pronoun.)

"This is *she*," Carla said when answering the phone.

(*She* is also a subject pronoun used after a *be* verb.)

There are many similarities between *you* and *me*.

(*You* and *me* are object pronouns.)

Directions

In each of the following sentences, circle the correct pronoun in parentheses. Write *subject* on the line if the pronoun is a subject pronoun. Write *object* on the line if the pronoun is an object pronoun. The first one has been done for you.

- subject 1. Carla and (I, me) love to talk on the phone.
- _____ 2. The telephone is the most wonderful part of technology for
(we, us).
- _____ 3. When someone asks for you on the telephone, do you say,
"This is (she, her)" or "This is (he, him)?"
- _____ 4. (We, Us) both learned quickly how to recognize each other's
voice on the phone.
- _____ 5. On account of (I, me), my mom rarely uses the phone.

Antecedents

The word that the pronoun replaces is called the *antecedent*. If the antecedent is singular, the pronoun must be singular; if it is plural, the pronoun must be plural. Study the examples below as well as the ones in your handbook. (Turn to page 90, and then also look at 441.4 in *Write Source 2000*.)

EXAMPLES

The players won (his/their) matches.

(The antecedent *players* is plural, so the pronoun must be plural.)

A soldier may one day become an officer if (he or she/they) is dedicated.

(The antecedent *soldier* is singular, so the pronoun must be singular.)

Directions

Underline the correct pronoun in parentheses. Then draw an arrow to its antecedent. (Use *him or her, his or hers, etc.*, when either a male or female could be referred to by the antecedent.)

1. Both magazines offered (*its/their*) customers a good deal.
2. The boss will hire anyone if (*he or she/they*) can serve on weekends.
3. Paula and Rosa brought samples of (*her/their*) winning recipe.
4. The club decided to raise (*its/their*) membership dues.
5. Not everyone should do weight lifting in (*his or her/their*) exercise program. (*Everyone* is a singular antecedent.)



Next Step Write five sentences that include pronouns and antecedents. Exchange papers with a classmate and underline each pronoun. Then draw an arrow to its antecedent just as you did in the sentences above.

Name:

Date:

Intensive Pronoun Practice

Use the following intensive pronouns to write sentences. You must use the intensive pronouns correctly. Remember, you can take the intensive pronoun out of the sentence without changing the meaning of the sentence.

Myself

Yourself

Himself

Herself

Itself

Ourselves

Yourselves

Themselves

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

Name: _____

Pronouns
Subject vs. Object vs. Possessive
#3

I. Write the definition of each:

Subject: _____

Object: _____

Possessive: _____

II. Directions: Circle the correct answer. Write "subject", "object", or "possessive" on the line to the left.

Subject, Object or Possessive

- _____ 1. (Your , You) puppy is so cute.
- _____ 2. (He , Him) slowly crept up in the attic.
- _____ 3. The baby's crying woke (she , her) up.
- _____ 4. Arf, Arf, barked (me , my) dog.
- _____ 5. With (who , whom) are you playing?
- _____ 6. Between innings, (they , them) sang the Star Spangled Banner.
- _____ 7. (He , His) brother wore a white scary ghost costume on Halloween.
- _____ 8. The counselor said, " It's a pleasure to see (you, your) today.
- _____ 9. " Do (you , your) want to see a movie?" asked Starrina.
- _____ 10. We kept the surprise party a secret from (he, him).
- _____ 11. Because of the cold weather, (our , we) car won't start.
- _____ 12. (They , Them) are going to have a water balloon fight at camp.

Name: _____

Pronoun Review

I can understand when pronouns are in proper case (subjective, objective, possessive).

A **subjective pronoun** acts as the subject of a sentence – it performs the action of the verb. The subjective pronouns are he, I, it, she, they, we, and you.

Subjective Pronoun Example: He spends ages looking out the window.

After lunch, she and I went to the planetarium.

An **objective pronoun** acts as the object of a sentence – it receives the action of the verb. The objective pronouns are her, him, it, me, them, us, and you.

Objective Pronoun Example: Cousin Eldred gave me a trombone.

Take a picture of him, not us!

A **possessive pronoun** tells you who owns something. The possessive pronouns are hers, ^{his} ~~him~~, its, mine, ours, theirs, and yours.

Possessive Pronoun Example: The red basket is mine.

Yours is on the coffee table.

TRY IT! - Directions: Underline the pronoun in the sentence. Then circle if the pronoun is subjective, objective, or possessive.

1. Jessie and I love to go white water rafting. (subjective, objective, possessive)
2. Larry said, "That book is mine." (subjective, objective, possessive)
3. We both learned how to ride a bike in the same summer. (subjective, objective, possessive)
4. Please let me know when basketball try-outs begin. (subjective, objective, possessive)
5. Who is going on the Disney trip with them? (subjective, objective, possessive)
6. Brad was so proud of his A+ in English class. (subjective, objective, possessive)
7. She said the birthday cake was delicious. (subjective, objective, possessive)
8. There are many differences between you and me. (subjective, objective, possessive)

I can recognize and correct vague pronouns (ones with unclear antecedents).

Directions: Circle the letter for **ALL** sentences that have a clear antecedent.

- A. Bill and Ted were going to the mall to buy their mom a gift.
- B. He said he needed to get a new video game, too.
- C. They ran into two girls at the movie theater.
- D. Janie was going to see her favorite movie, Batman.
- E. We ate Reese's pieces and popcorn at the movie theater.