

# Lesson 37

## Pronoun Case

- Some pronouns have different forms, or cases, to indicate their function. The three cases of pronouns are subjective, objective, and possessive.
- Use **subjective pronouns** (I, you, he, she, it, we, they, who) as the subject or subject complement in a clause or sentence.

EXAMPLES: Omar and I stick together.  
It was he who dropped the glass.  
I forgot that they were coming.

- Use **objective pronouns** (me, you, him, her, it, us, them, whom) as direct and indirect objects, or as objects of prepositions.

EXAMPLES: Mimi beat them all at table tennis. [direct object]  
Oliver gave him a note. [indirect object]  
Min made supper for us. [object of preposition]

- Use **possessive pronouns** (mine, yours, his, hers, its, ours, theirs, whose) to indicate possession.

EXAMPLE: When Todd took the last meatball, he didn't realize it was yours.

**Note:** My, your, his, her, our, their, and whose used before a noun are possessive adjectives, not pronouns (see Lesson 39).

**A. Circle the correct form of the personal pronoun in parentheses, and then identify its case as subjective (S), objective (O), or possessive (P).**

1. Nina and (I, me) got our hair cut at the same salon. \_\_\_\_\_
2. I suppose that shadowy figure might have been (he, him), but I can't be sure. \_\_\_\_\_
3. I've seen blue eyes, but (her's, hers) are bluer than anyone else's. \_\_\_\_\_
4. Dagmar expected Helena and (they, them) to help pay for the barbecue. \_\_\_\_\_
5. (They, Them) and their friends are going camping together next spring. \_\_\_\_\_
6. Jonah took (they, them) and their kids to Assiniboine Park. \_\_\_\_\_
7. They are coming over to watch TV with us, because (their, theirs) is broken. \_\_\_\_\_
8. I found out that (she, her) and her brother were twins. \_\_\_\_\_
9. Kira bought tickets for Bill and (she, her). \_\_\_\_\_
10. Neither Max nor (he, him) can play basketball. \_\_\_\_\_

- A pronoun that follows than or as can be in the subjective or objective case, depending on the context. To determine which case is required, fill in the missing words in the second clause.

EXAMPLES: Paul spoke to Vanessa longer than (he spoke to) me. ["me" is the object of the preposition to, so use objective case]  
Paul spoke to Vanessa longer than I (spoke to her). ["I" is subject of the clause than I spoke to her, so use the subjective case]

**B. Circle the correct form of the pronoun given in parentheses.**

1. Chantal plays fiddle better than (I, me).
2. That sweater is looser on you than on (he, him).
3. The others enjoyed the book more than (I, me).
4. My dad was once a big Beatles fan; back then, no one liked the Fab Four as much as (he, him).
5. Boris was upset because he thought I was ignoring him; he said I talked to everyone else at the party more than (he, him).
6. Sometimes I think you like your snowboard as much as (I, me), which doesn't say much for our relationship!
7. That jacket suits Ishan more than (he, him).
8. I could never drink as many soft drinks at one sitting as (she, her)!
9. None of the other groups who presented were better than (they, them).
10. Our dog, Fido, likes Judy better than (I, me), because Judy takes him for more walks.

- Writers and speakers sometimes express solidarity with a particular group by using a noun directly preceded by we or us (as in "we the people" or "us farmers"). In expressions like these, the pronoun case is the same as it would be without the noun.

EXAMPLE: **Incorrect:** Us workers want higher wages. ["Us want" is incorrect.]  
**Correct:** We workers want higher wages. ["We want" is correct.]

**C. Write we or us in the blank.**

1. Joining a food co-operative gives \_\_\_\_\_ consumers more control over prices.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ joggers have bad knees but healthy hearts.
3. It is important that \_\_\_\_\_ voters exercise our franchise!
4. The thing about \_\_\_\_\_ rugby players is that we are tougher than everyone else!
5. Rising tuition fees are hurting \_\_\_\_\_ poor students who have to work our way through school.