

Writing and Humanities Tutoring Center



Pronouns - Types and Usage

Subjective Case

- I, you, he, she, it, we, they, who
 - Used as subjects.
 - Examples: **I** prepared dinner. / **They** prepared dinner.
 - Predicate nominative pronouns are used the same way.
 - Incorrect: She is taller than me.
 - Correct: She is taller than **I**. (am)

Objective Case

- me, you, him, her, it, us, them, whom
 - Use as objects inside prep phrases and after active verbs
 - Examples: Cynthia gave **me** a beautiful birthday gift.

Possessive Case

- Mine, my, yours, your, his, her, hers, it, its, our, ours, their, theirs, whose
 - Example: The sandwich in the fridge is **mine**.

Relative Pronouns

- This, that, these, those, which, whomever, whichever
 - Use when referencing a noun previously mentioned.
 - Example: The dog **that** bit him ran away ("that" stands in for "dog")
 - Use when incorporating a dependent clause into a sentence
 - Example: The man **who was sad** tried to make a joke.

Indefinite Pronouns

- Anybody, everybody, most, somebody, few, nobody, either
 - Use to refer to inexact people, places, or things.
 - Example: **Everybody** is going to be at the party tomorrow night.

Demonstrative Pronouns

- This, that, these, those
 - Use to point to specific people, places, or things
 - Example: **This** is the best community college in California.

Interrogative Pronouns

- What, which, who, whom, whose
 - Used to ask a question
 - Examples: **What** is your name? Which movie would you like to see?
Whose shirt is this? **Whom** did you see?

To avoid confusion, the pronoun should refer to one clear and obvious noun before it.

- Incorrect: Jim doesn't take his kids to parks because he hates them.
- Correct: Because he hates parks, Jim doesn't take his kids to them.
- Incorrect: If your children hate radishes, just chop them up into little pieces.
- Correct: Just chop the radishes up into little pieces if your children don't like them.