Pronouns Usage III - Case

Pre-Test

A score of 90% or better on this test indicates a mastery of the skills for which the test has been designed.

DIRECTIONS: From the options listed within parentheses, circle the pronoun(s) to correct complete the sentences.

EXAMPLE: I can run as fast as [(he), him].

1. Bill sat between Helen and [I, me].
2. It was [they, them] who reported the accident.
3. [He, Him] and I produced a film for our project.
4. The boys rode with Mrs. Johnson and [I, me].
5. You may return the books to Mr. Roberts or [I, me].
6. Just between you and [I, me], I think that Tom is the best candidate.
7. I hope that Martha invites you and [I, me] on the camping trip.
8. The instructor’s comments seemed to be directed at [we, us] students.
9. My friend and [I, me] designed an energy-saving device.
10. Everyone expect [he, him] supported the project.
11. The chairman appointed [she, her] and [I, me] to the subcommittee.
12. Bertha and [he, him] moved to Detroit last summer.
13. Your singing annoys both Mark and [I, me].
14. The rising cost of living concerns [we, us] students.
15. [We, Us] neighbors helped to build a youth center.
16. The argument was between Edward and [myself, I, me].
17. Ginger and [myself, I] volunteered to campaign for Mr. Wentworth.

18. The new regulation applies to Frank and [myself, I, me].

19. My brother is taller than [I, me].

Answers on the last page
**Pronoun Cases**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nominative or Subject</th>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>Possessive</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>me</td>
<td>my, mine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>you</td>
<td>you</td>
<td>your, yours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>he</td>
<td>him</td>
<td>his</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>she</td>
<td>her</td>
<td>her, hers</td>
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<tr>
<td>it</td>
<td>it</td>
<td>our, ours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>who</td>
<td>us</td>
<td>their, theirs</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>them</td>
<td>whose</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>whom</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

The term **case** refers to the changes in the form of the pronoun. See the pronoun chart above to identify the three pronoun cases: (1) nominative or subject case; (2) objective case; (3) possessive case. Changes in the form of the pronoun are determined by the use or function of the pronoun in the sentence.

Errors in pronoun usage occur most often in the following structures: (1) compound subjects; (2) compound objects; (3) use of “we” or “us” preceding nouns; (4) pronouns following linking verbs; (5) pronouns preceding gerunds. The sentences shown in the examples illustrate these five possible problems.

**EXAMPLES:**

**Compound Subjects**

James and (I, me) repaired the car.  
Answer: I

**Compound Objects**

Mother told Jason and (I, me) to clean the garage.  
Answer: me
Between you and (I, me), I’m curious about Pat’s sudden interest in Tim.
Answer: me

Use of “we” or “us”

(We, Us) members voted to change the constitution. Answer: We

The policeman accused (we, us) students of starting the fight. Answer: us

Pronouns following Linking Verbs

The person chosen to represent us is (she, her) C. Answer: she

Pronouns Preceding Gerunds

We were happy about (him, his) winning the race. Answer: his

s = subject o = object p = preposition g = gerund
v = verb LV = linking verb C = complement

Using Pronouns in Compound Subjects and Objects

To test the correct pronoun usage for compound subjects and compound objects, mentally omit all of the words in the subject or object except the pronoun to be chosen.

EXAMPLE:

James and (I, me) repaired the car.

WRONG: Me repaired the car.

RIGHT: I repaired the car.

Mother told Jason and (I, me) to clean the garage.

WRONG: Mother told I to clean the garage.

RIGHT: Mother told me to clean the garage.

Dr. Brooks asked Gary and (I, me) to report to his office.

WRONG: Dr. Brooks asked I to report to his office.
RIGHT: Dr. Brooks asked me to report to his office.

(He, Him) and (I, me) went fishing.

WRONG: Him went fishing.

RIGHT: He went fishing.

WRONG: Me went fishing.

RIGHT: I went fishing.

At the last football game, Joe sat between Mary and (I, me). Answer: me

Between you and (I, me), I’m curious about Pat’s sudden interest in Tim.
Answer: me

Pronouns which are objects of prepositions must always be in the objective case.

**Using Pronouns as Compliments for Formal Written English**

Pronouns which follow linking verbs should be nominative case pronouns. Listed here are some of the most used linking verbs: *is, are, was, were, be, been*.

EXAMPLES:

The person receiving the most votes was (he, him). Answer: he

It might have been (he, him) in the blue car. Answer: he

(In informal speech, many people use the objective case pronoun after the linking verb.)

**Using Pronouns Preceding Gerunds**

Gerunds are verbs with *ing* endings. When these verb forms are used as nouns, they are called gerunds. Pronouns preceding gerunds are usually in the possessive case.

EXAMPLES:

Mother worried about (me, my) failing the test. Answer: my

I object to (him, his) arguing about every point. Answer: his
Using Pronouns Preceding Nouns

The method of omission to select the correct pronoun will usually make the sentence sound right. This same method can be used to select the correct pronoun preceding a noun. Mentally omit the noun following the pronoun.

EXAMPLES:

(We, Us) members voted to change the constitution.

WRONG: Us voted to change the constitution.

RIGHT: We voted to change the constitution.

The policeman accused (we, us) students of starting the fight.

WRONG: The policeman accused we students of starting the fight.

RIGHT: The policeman accused us students of starting the fight.

Using Pronouns in Appositives

The method of omission can also be used to select the correct pronouns for appositives. In this structure, omit the subject or object preceding the pronoun used in the appositives.

EXAMPLES:

The participants (she, her) and (I, me), were prepared for the debate.

WRONG: Her and me were prepared for the debate.

RIGHT: She and I were prepared for the debate.

The group selected two candidates (he, him) and (I, me).

WRONG: The group selected two candidates he and I.

RIGHT: The group selected two candidates him and me.
Using Pronouns as Objects of Prepositions

Pronouns used as objects of prepositions are always objective case pronouns. Errors in pronoun usage occur most often with the following prepositions: between, with, to and about. This kind of error is especially prevalent when there are compound objects of prepositions OP.

EXAMPLE:

Henry wanted to ride with Mark OP and (I, me) OP. Answer: me

Using Pronouns with than or as …as

Pronouns following comparisons using than or as … as must be determined by the meaning of the sentence.

EXAMPLE:

Homer’s lies shocked mother as much as (I, me).
I can run as fast as (he, him).
My brother is taller than (I, me).

Expand the sentences by mentally supplying omitted words.

Homer’s lies shocked mother as much as they shocked me.
I can run as fast as he can run.
My brother is taller than I am.

Some sentences using comparisons may have two possible meanings.

Judith liked Bert as much as (I, me).
Judith liked Bert as much as I did.
Judith liked Bert as much as she liked me.
Post-Test

A score of 90% or better on this test indicates a mastery of the skills for which the test has been designed.

DIRECTIONS: From the options listed within the parentheses, circle the pronoun(s) to correctly complete the sentences.

EXAMPLE: Mr. Thorson informed Tim and (I, myself, me) that we have received scholarships.

1. Jim Jackson, Mary Tomlin, and (I, myself, me) were guest speakers at the program.

2. A heated argument arose between Jill and (I, me).

3. Anabelle gave Martin and (he, him) permission to use her house this summer.

4. Harold is a better athlete than (I, me).

5. The first guests to arrive were (they, them).

6. The award winners, Wayne and (I, me) were given recognition at today’s meeting.

7. (We, Us) boys helped Mr. Wenzel repair his fence.

8. Dr. Mason disapproved of (we, us) studying together.

9. The new tax law definitely affects (we, us) citizens.

10. Uncle Henry invited my brother and (I, me) to spend the summer on his ranch.

Answers on the last page
## Pre-Test
2. They  7. Me  12. He  17. I
5. Me  10. Him  15. We

## Post-Test
1. I  6. I
2. Me  7. We
3. Him  8. Our
4. I  9. Us
5. They  10. Me