



# IDENTIFYING PERSONAL PRONOUNS

- A **pronoun** is a word that is used in place of a noun or another pronoun. The word that a personal pronoun refers to is called its antecedent.
- Personal pronouns change their forms to reflect **person**, **number**, and **case**.
- **Person**: Personal pronouns have **different forms** for first person, second person, and third person point of view.
- **Number**: Pronouns can be **singular or plural**.
- **Case**: Personal pronouns change their forms depending on **how they are used** in a sentence. Each pronoun has three cases: **subject, object, and possessive**.

		Subject	Object	Possessive
Singular	First Person	I	me	my, mine
	Second Person	you	you	your, yours
	Third Person	he, she, it	him, her, it	his, her, hers, its
Plural	First Person	we	us	our, ours
	Second Person	you	you	your, yours
	Third Person	they	them	their, theirs



# MAKING PRONOUNS AND ANTECEDENTS AGREE

- The **antecedent** is the noun or pronoun that a pronoun refers to or replaces. Pronouns must agree with their antecedents in number, person, and gender.
- **Number:** Use a singular pronoun to refer to a singular antecedent. Use a plural pronoun to refer to a plural antecedent.

America, with its great opportunities was attractive to immigrants.

Immigrants came to America. They were looking for a better way of life.

- **Person:** The **person** (first person, second person, third person) of a pronoun must be the same as the person of the antecedent. Avoid switching from one person to another in the same sentence or paragraph.

**First Person:** We learned about our ancestors.

**Second Person:** You can learn about your ancestors too.

**Third Person:** Luis knows that his ancestors came from Spain.

- **Gender:** The **gender** of a pronoun must be the same as the gender of its antecedent. Personal pronouns have three gender forms: masculine (*he, him, his*), feminine (*she, her, hers*), and neuter (*it, its*). Don't use only masculine or feminine pronouns when you mean to refer to both genders.

Mrs. Kim writes to her relatives in Korea.

Jacob know stories from his homeland.

An immigrant leaves his or her homeland.



# USING SUBJECT PRONOUNS

- A **subject pronoun** is used as the subject of a sentence or as a predicate pronoun after a linking verb.

Subject Pronouns	
Singular	Plural
I	we
you	you
he, she, it	they

- Use the **subject case** of a pronoun when the pronoun is the subject of a sentence. Remember that a pronoun can be part of a compound subject.

**Subject:** Sixth graders helped with the art fair. They worked very hard.  
(**They** replaces **Sixth graders**.)

**Compound Subject:** Ramon and I decided to paint a mural.

- Use the subject case for predicate pronouns. A **predicate pronoun** follows a linking verb and renames, or refers to, the subject. Remember that the most common linking verbs are forms of the verb *be* and include *is, am, are, was, were, been, has been, have been, can be, will be, could be, and should be*.

**Predicate Pronoun:** A wonderful painter is he.



# USING OBJECT PRONOUNS

- **Object pronouns** are personal pronouns used as direct objects, as indirect objects, or as the objects of prepositions.

Object Pronouns	
Singular	Plural
me	us
you	you
him, her, it	them

•As a **direct object**, the pronoun receives the action of a verb and answers the question *whom* or *what*. As an **indirect object**, the pronoun tells *to whom* or *what* or *for whom* or *what* an action is performed. As an **object of a preposition**, the pronoun follows a preposition such as *to*, *from*, *for*, *against*, *by*, *between*, or *about*.

**Direct object:** Matt bought the camera on display. (*What* did he buy? *camera*)

**Indirect object:** He loaned me the camera. (*To whom* did he loan? *me*)

**Object of the preposition:** I borrowed the camera from him several times.  
(Preposition: *from*; object of the preposition: *him*)



# USING POSSESSIVE PRONOUNS

- **Possessive pronouns** are personal pronouns used to show ownership or relationship.

Possessive Pronouns	
Singular	Plural
my, mine	our, ours
your, yours	your, yours
her, hers, his, its	their, theirs

- The possessive pronouns *my*, *your*, *her*, *his*, *our*, and *their* come before nouns. The possessive pronouns *mine*, *ours*, *yours*, *his*, *hers*, and *theirs* can stand alone in a sentence.

My mother is a great painter.

Some people's talents are in sports. Mine is in music.

- Some possessive pronouns sound like contractions (*its/it's*, *your/you're*, *their/they're*). Don't confuse these pairs. Remember that possessive pronouns never use apostrophes. Contractions *always* use apostrophes.

**Contraction:** It's my goal to play professional basketball.

**Possessive:** Why did that team succeed? Its secret was practice.