

# Nominative and Objective Cases

## Reteaching

**Personal pronouns** change form depending on how they function in a sentence. The form of a pronoun is called its **case**. The cases are nominative, objective, and possessive.

		Nominative	Objective	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

The **nominative form** of a personal pronoun is used when the pronoun functions as a subject, as part of a compound subject, or as a predicate nominative. A pronoun used as a predicate nominative is called a **predicate pronoun**. It takes the nominative case.

- SUBJECT**                                 She is my mother's niece.  
**PART OF COMPOUND SUBJECT**     She and I are cousins.  
**PREDICATE PRONOUN**                 The cousin I most resemble is she.

The **objective form** of a personal pronoun is used when the pronoun functions as a direct object, indirect object, or object of a preposition. Use it also when the pronoun is part of a compound object, or when it's used with an infinitive. An **infinitive** is the base form of a verb preceded by the word *to* —*to visit, to jog, to play*.

- DIRECT OBJECT**                         You can see her in these old family portraits.  
**INDIRECT OBJECT**                     My aunt sent me invitations to her wedding.  
**OBJECT OF PREPOSITION**           A distant cousin has been searching for us.  
**PART OF COMPOUND OBJECT**       My aunt reserved rooms for them and us.  
**INFINITIVE**                               Julie and Courtney went to visit him.

To decide which case to use in a compound construction, consider each part separately.

### A. Identifying the Case of a Pronoun

Identify the case of each boldfaced personal pronoun in the following sentences. On the line write **N** for nominative or **O** for objective.

1. My uncle, my mother's brother, is an attorney, but **he** really only wants to paint. \_\_\_\_\_
2. He painted a portrait of my mother and gave it to **her** as a wedding present. \_\_\_\_\_
3. My mother painted, too, but **she** said he was the talented one. \_\_\_\_\_
4. She said their mother had wanted **them** both to go to art school. \_\_\_\_\_
5. My mother said, "I wish **we** both had listened to her." \_\_\_\_\_

### B. Using the Correct Case of Personal Pronouns

Underline the correct pronoun to complete each sentence.

1. It was (he, him) who made the posters for our election campaign.
2. When will Burt and (I, me) get our turn to participate in that program?
3. The extreme wind-chill factor left Teresa and (I, me) shivering.

**Nominative and Objective Cases***More Practice***A. Using the Correct Case of Personal Pronouns**

In each sentence, underline the correct pronoun form.

1. My grandfather was a carpenter; (he, him) made beautiful cabinets.
2. My grandmother baked a pie for (we, us) every Sunday.
3. (Her, She) and I used to go shopping together.
4. She taught (me, I) how to cook and sew.
5. Baking was harder, and I never could do it as well as (her, she).
6. Women of the family have to help each other out, (she, her) said.
7. My grandfather and (she, her) didn't always get along.
8. (They, Them) were my grandparents on my father's side.
9. My mother's parents lived in Texas, so we didn't see (them, they) very often.
10. They sent me a chess set, and I still have (it, them).
11. When I was 13, I flew to Texas to visit (them, they).
12. My Texas grandmother and (me, I) went shopping in Austin.

**B. Choosing Personal Pronouns**

In the following sentences, fill in the blanks with the appropriate personal pronouns. Vary the person and number of the pronouns, and do not use the pronoun *you*.

1. The mail carrier brought \_\_\_\_\_ the current edition of the magazine.
2. Corinne and \_\_\_\_\_ discussed the plays of Arthur Miller.
3. The swimming coach sent Evan and \_\_\_\_\_ to a special backstroke coach.
4. Despite early difficulties, \_\_\_\_\_ and the rest of the cast got along well.
5. I am certain that I gave \_\_\_\_\_ the tickets.
6. It must have been \_\_\_\_\_ who sang a Verdi opera.
7. Be sure to leave the extra copies of the flyer for \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
8. If you need a ride home, call Frank's dad or \_\_\_\_\_.
9. After graduation, my parents gave my twin and \_\_\_\_\_ a trip to Washington.
10. Are Michelle and \_\_\_\_\_ responsible for closing the theater?

# Nominative and Objective Cases

## Application

### A. Proofreading

Proofread the following story to make sure that the correct cases of pronouns have been used. When you find a pronoun used incorrectly, cross it out. Then insert this proofreading symbol  $\sphericalangle$  and write the correct pronoun above it.

If you and me had the same mother and father, then we would be sister and brother. If we had only one parent in common, however, our relationship would be different. Him and her, for example, both have the same father, but not the same mother. George and her are half brother and half sister. Did I tell you about Jackie and him, who are stepsister and stepbrother? We know she and him from school. Jackie and him don't have either parent in common. Jackie's father and Bill's mother are married to each other, but that marriage didn't make him Bill's father or her Jackie's mother.

### B. Using Personal Pronouns in Writing

Write a paragraph about your own (or a friend's) family, describing the relationships among the various members. Be sure to use personal pronouns correctly.

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## Possessive Case

### Reteaching

Personal pronouns that show ownership or relationship are in the **possessive case**. The possessive pronouns *mine, ours, yours, his, hers, its, and theirs* can be used in place of a noun. They can function as subjects, predicate nominatives, or objects.

Different forms of government have been tried. Ours is a democracy.

The possessive pronouns *my, your, his, her, its, and their* can be used to modify nouns or gerunds. The pronoun precedes the noun or gerund it modifies. Do not use a possessive pronoun with a participle.

Their relying on the common people rather than on nobility for leadership determined the form of our government. (*relying* used as gerund)

The nobility laughed at them, relying on commoners. (*relying* used as participle)

Don't confuse these possessive pronouns with the contractions that they sound like: *their/they're* (they are), *its/it's* (it is), *your/you're* (you are).

### A. Identifying Possessive Pronouns

Underline all the possessive pronouns in each sentence.

1. The dictator's emotional appeal was responsible for his gaining absolute power.
2. He appealed to the poor by telling them he would eradicate their misery by passing laws against the rich and redistributing their wealth.
3. His winning over the middle class was due to a promise to give them fewer taxes.
4. He told the rich that their fear of his seizing their wealth was groundless.
5. Listening to our emotions rather than to our intellects can allow a dictator to impose his will on our country.

### B. Using Personal Pronouns Correctly

In each sentence, underline the correct pronoun form.

1. The French overthrew (theirs, their) kings.
2. Yet they accepted Napoleon as (their, they're) emperor.
3. In 1776, the United States was unique because of (us, our) rejecting kingship.
4. More than 200 years later, the idea of a monarchy retains (it's, its) popularity in parts of the world.
5. Doris and (me, I) argued about what political system was best.
6. I said, "(You're, Your) opinion of what's best for a country must be based on the history and traditions of that country."
7. She said, "I don't even understand (mine, my) own country's history and traditions."
8. I said, "Some kings were very kind and beneficial to (their, they're) people."
9. "I suppose it's the same with (our, ours) elected officials," she said.
10. (She, Her) saying that made me think more about our own system.
11. "(Your, You're) right," I said. "We have good and bad officials, too."
12. "But our system is the best for (we, us)," she said, and (I, me) agreed.

# Possessive Case

## More Practice

### A. Using Personal Pronouns Correctly

In each sentence, underline the correct pronoun form.

1. Napoleon marched (his, him) troops into Russia.
2. (His, Him) not planning how he would feed the army during the winter of 1812 resulted in its destruction.
3. My father gave my brother and (me, my) a copy of the novel *War and Peace*.
4. In his novel, Leo Tolstoy describes Napoleon's campaign and (its, it's) failure.
5. At the same time, the United States was fighting (its, it's) own War of 1812.
6. Our war with the British concerned the boundary line between our territory and (they're, theirs) in North America.
7. It also was about (their, them) removing American sailors from American ships to serve on British ships.
8. We need writers to tell (our, ours) history as magnificently as Tolstoy told Russia's.
9. You could say that (he, his) made history as much as Napoleon and the Tsar did.
10. Maybe the nation as a whole—not the rulers—makes (their, its) own history.

### B. Using Pronouns to Emphasize Actions and Actors

Write a sentence using each of the given phrases. Do not use the same verb in more than one sentence.

**EXAMPLES** me writing the letter

*My cat watched me writing the letter.*

my writing the letter

*My writing the letter was unusual; usually I telephone.*

1. his buying a car \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. him singing along \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. her spilling the drink \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. us going to our seats \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. your finding the wallet \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# Possessive Case

## Application

### A. Proofreading for Pronoun Errors

Proofread the following essay. When you find a possessive pronoun used incorrectly, cross it out. Insert this proofreading symbol  $\nearrow$  and write the correct pronoun above it.

France is now a republic. It elects it's leaders. But France was a monarchy from the Middle Ages to the time of the French Revolution, which occurred just after ours Revolution and was inspired by it's success. A monarchy is a state ruled by kings. In America, ours idea of royalty is that its a primitive and inferior form of government. But consider the history of the French people. During the Middle Ages, they're form of government, was feudal, with many little states or realms. Them having this system hindered trade and commerce and led to much fighting among there realms. In 987 the nobles chose Hugh Capet as their king. Him starting the Capetian dynasty eventually resulted in a strong central government under his descendants. In times of peace, trade and commerce could grow as never before.

### B. Using Pronoun Cases Correctly in Writing

Write a paragraph relating facts about a ruler in a country, either past or present, that is not or was not a democracy at the time of that ruler. For example, the ruler could be a king, queen, emperor, or dictator. Use the correct cases of personal pronouns in your sentences. Be sure to use at least four pronouns in the possessive case. In addition, use each of these phrases appropriately:

them (or him, her, it) having      their (or his, her, its) having

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# Who and Whom

## Reteaching

The case of the pronoun **who** is determined by the pronoun's function in the sentence.

<b>Nominative</b>	who, whoever
<b>Objective</b>	whom, whomever
<b>Possessive</b>	whose, whosever

*Who* and *whom* can be used to ask questions and to introduce subordinate clauses. *Whose* and *whosever* can be used to show ownership or relationship.

In a question, *who* is used as subject or predicate pronoun. The objective pronoun *whom* is used as a direct or indirect object of a verb or as object of a preposition.

<b>SUBJECT</b>	<u>Who</u> is being considered for the chemistry award?
<b>DIRECT OBJECT</b>	<u>Whom</u> did the awards jury interview so far?
<b>OBJECT OF PREPOSITION</b>	To <u>whom</u> was the award given last year?

When deciding whether to use *who* or *whom* in a subordinate clause, consider only how the pronoun functions in the clause. If it is the subject, use *who*. If the pronoun is an object in the subordinate clause, use *whom*.

<b>SUBJECT OF CLAUSE</b>	Anyone <u>who</u> nominates a candidate completes a form.
<b>OBJECT IN CLAUSE</b>	Those <u>whom</u> the jury interviews go on to the next stage.

## Using Who and Whom Correctly

In each sentence, underline the correct pronoun form. If the pronoun choice is in a subordinate clause, first draw brackets [ ] before and after the clause. Decide how the pronoun functions in the clause. Then mark the right choice.

Give your application to [(whoever, whomever) is at the desk].

1. Antoine Lavoisier, (who, whom) was executed during the French Revolution, was one of the founders of modern chemistry.
2. (Who, Whom) will follow in the footsteps of the great men and women of science?
3. Alchemists, (who, whom) were predecessors of true chemists, tried to turn lead into gold.
4. They got their ideas from (whoever, whomever) they found promising.
5. (Who, Whom) among the ancient Greeks could be considered a chemist?
6. From (who, whom) did we get the notion of atoms?
7. Chinese chemists (whose, whosever) names we don't know invented gunpowder.
8. (Who, Whom) did Lavoisier influence?
9. The professor asked (who, whom) could define the term *stoichiometry*.
10. She offered an extra 5 points to (whomever, whoever) explained the term.
11. The student (who, whom) I sat behind had the answer.
12. (Who, Whom) did Aristotle get his ideas from?
13. We all know (who, whom) discovered radioactivity.
14. But (who, whom) first used it to produce x-rays?
15. (Whoever, Whomever) wants to study chemistry should take some math.

**Who and Whom****More Practice****A. Identifying the Functions of *Who* and *Whom***

In the following sentences, determine the function of *who/whoever* or *whom/whomever*. If a sentence uses *who* or *whoever*, underline once the verb of which it is the subject. If a sentence uses *whom* or *whomever*, underline twice the verb or preposition of which it is an object.

**EXAMPLES** Scientists **who** read Shakespeare are well-rounded.  
That student will disagree with **whomever** he dislikes.

1. To **whom** was the Nobel Prize for chemistry awarded in 1932?
2. **Whoever** founded the Nobel Prize?
3. Do the judges give the award to **whomever** they like?
4. No, they give it to **whoever** they believe did the most important work.
5. Alfred Nobel, for **whom** the prizes are named, made his fortune with explosives.
6. He was a Swedish chemist **who** invented dynamite with the hope of making work conditions safer for miners and others whose work required handling explosives.
7. Noble wanted to assure that **whoever** did valuable work in physics, chemistry, physiology and medicine, literature, and humanitarian fields received recognition.
8. Linus Pauling, **who** won two Nobel Prizes, examined chemical bonds.
9. **Who** won the award for work on quantum theory?
10. That was Niels Bohr, **whom** the judges awarded the prize for physics in 1922.

**B. Using Forms of *Who* Correctly**

In each sentence, underline the correct pronoun form.

1. (Whoever, Whomever) leaves the room last should turn off the lights.
2. Do you know (who, whom, whose) invented the zipper?
3. The architect (who, whom, whose) design wins will get a profitable contract.
4. Shakespeare is a playwright about (who, whom, whose) I would like to know more.
5. Our so-called watchdog wants (whoever, whomever) walks into the yard to pet her.
6. Did Marie find out (who, whom) Jerry is giving the party for?
7. (Who, Whom) did they say won the last race?
8. Offer the tickets to (whoever, whomever, whosever) you meet in the lobby.
9. (Whoever, Whomever, Whosever) score is highest wins the game.
10. Please ask (who, whom) the speaker is.
11. The painters (who, whom) Dad hired are late.
12. Nobody can remember for (who, whom) we saved this moldy sandwich.
13. Only those students (who, whom, whose) last names begin with *M* should stand.
14. Tell (whoever, whomever) was scheduled to work tonight about the power outage.
15. The bus driver invited the students (who, whom) he picks up regularly to a picnic.



# Who and Whom

## Application

### A. Proofreading for Who and Whom

Proofread the following paragraph. Decide whether each numbered use of form a of *who* is correct. If the wrong form of the pronoun is used, write the correct form on the line below. If the correct form is used, write **Correct**.

Madame Marie Curie, (1) whom was awarded two Nobel Prizes, was a martyr to modern chemistry. Her first Nobel Prize, in 1903, for pioneer work on radioactivity, was shared two men—her husband, Pierre Curie, (2) whom she had married in 1895, and Henri Becquerel, (3) whom discovered radioactivity. The second, in 1911, was for her discovery of the radioactive elements radium and polonium. Her work with these materials led to her contracting leukemia, a form of cancer, which killed her. But (4) whom at the time knew these materials were dangerous? (5) Whoever works with such materials today does so from behind heavy shielding or in special protective clothing. We, (6) whom recognize the dangers of these materials, and (7) whom Madame Curie's work with them benefits, use radium as a basic material in chemotherapy, to cure cancer.

Madame Curie was also the mother of Irene Joliot-Curie, (8) whom was awarded the Nobel Prize in chemistry in 1935. Joliot-Curie also shared the prize with her husband, Frederic Joliot-Curie, (9) who she had married in 1926.

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5. \_\_\_\_\_
- 6. \_\_\_\_\_
- 7. \_\_\_\_\_
- 8. \_\_\_\_\_
- 9. \_\_\_\_\_

### B. Using Who, Whom, and Whose in Writing

Rewrite each sentence or pair of sentences below as a single sentence that uses a subordinate clause introduced by or containing *who*, *whom*, or *whose*. Use the pronoun given in parentheses in your new sentence.

**EXAMPLE** I will ask that man. He is selling newspapers. (who)  
*I will ask the man who is selling newspapers.*

- 1. The teacher reprimanded the student. His assignment was late. (whose)  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 2. This is the phone number of the young lady. You wanted to ask her out. (whom)  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 3. Some students studied hard. They got good grades. (whoever)  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 4. My neighbor is an excellent gardener. Every year he gives me tomatoes. (who)  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 5. He interviewed all of the people he had met at the concert. (whomever)  
\_\_\_\_\_

# Pronoun-Antecedent Agreement

*Reteaching*

A pronoun must agree with its antecedent in number, gender, and person. An **antecedent** is the noun or pronoun that a pronoun refers to or replaces.

If the antecedent is singular, use a singular pronoun. If it is plural, use a plural pronoun. Nouns or pronouns joined by *and* are treated as a plural antecedent. If parts of the antecedent are joined by *or* or *nor*, the pronoun agrees with the part nearest to it.

Both the officers and the captain have their names on the ship's newsletter.  
 Either the officers or the captain has his quarters at the end of this hall.

**With Indefinite Pronouns** Use a singular personal pronoun to refer to a singular **indefinite pronoun**, and a plural personal pronoun to refer to a plural indefinite pronoun.

Each of the ships has its own dock. Many of the ships are loading their supplies.

## Indefinite Pronouns

Always Singular					Always Plural	Singular or Plural	
another	each	everything	no one	someone	both	all	most
anybody	either	much	nothing	something	few	any	none
anyone	everybody	neither	one		many	more	some
anything	everyone	nobody	somebody		several		

If the indefinite pronoun antecedent can be singular or plural, use the meaning of the sentence to determine the number of the indefinite personal pronoun.

Most of the entertainment delighted its audience. (singular).  
Most of the entertainers were on their first cruise. (plural)

**Gender and Person** If the antecedent of a singular pronoun could be either feminine or masculine, use the phrase *his or her*. The indefinite pronouns *one*, *everyone*, and *everybody* are in the third person, so pronouns referring to them must be third person also.

## Making Pronouns and Their Antecedents Agree

In each sentence, underline the correct pronoun and its antecedent.

All of the lifeboats have had (its, their) supplies renewed.

1. The captain is French, but (their, his) wife is Italian.
2. They spent (their, his) honeymoon on a cruise ship.
3. The captain and the first mate are on (their, his) first voyage together.
4. Neither the petty officers nor the captain wants (his, their) orders questioned.
5. Many buy (their, his) souvenirs at the harbor store.
6. Some of the food on the buffet was so beautiful that we took (its, their) picture.

# Pronoun-Antecedent Agreement

*More Practice*

## A. Making Pronouns and Antecedents Agree

Underline the pronoun in parentheses that correctly completes each sentence. Also underline the antecedent(s) of the pronoun.

1. Each of the boys enjoyed (his, their) week at the baseball training camp.
2. Some of the swimathon participants arrived with (his or her, their) sponsors.
3. Either Janet or Marjorie left (her, their) calculus book on the windowsill.
4. The chorus honored (its, their) director at a banquet this spring.
5. Most of the antique furniture still had (its, their) original upholstery.
6. Everyone is invited to test (your, his or her, their) ability to climb the wall.
7. The City Council presented (its, their) varying opinions to the media.
8. Either the president or members of Congress will have (his, their ) pictures taken.
9. Several of the delegates tried to resolve (its, his or her, their) conflicting views.
10. Some of the wallpaper in those rooms shows (its, their) age.

## B. Using Pronouns Correctly

In each sentence below, decide whether the pronouns agree with their antecedents. If the sentence is correct, write **Correct** on the line. If it contains a pronoun that does not agree with its antecedent, rewrite the sentence correctly on the line.

1. Some of the crew on the cruise ship traveled far from its homelands.

\_\_\_\_\_

2. One of the officers has had their license for only a week.

\_\_\_\_\_

3. In my view, all of the ship lived up to their publicity.

\_\_\_\_\_

4. A few of the passengers complained about the size of their rooms.

\_\_\_\_\_

5. One of the women passengers stayed in their room for the first two days.

\_\_\_\_\_

6. The captain and the officers took his meals with the passengers.

\_\_\_\_\_

7. Everybody had their chance to sit at the captain's table.

\_\_\_\_\_

8. Either the captain or the first mate was always at their post on the bridge.

\_\_\_\_\_

# Pronoun-Antecedent Agreement

*Application*

## A. Making Pronouns and Antecedents Agree in Writing

Read the following paragraph. Look especially for errors in agreement between pronouns and their antecedents. On the lines below, write the numbers of the sentences with agreement errors. Then write each of those sentences correctly.

(1) My parents went on a cruise for his or her thirtieth anniversary. (2) Neither one had ever been away from their family for a week. (3) My mother tried to get her mother to go along, but she wouldn't. (4) The whole family agreed that it was good for them to get away on your own. (5) Everyone on the ship got to know my parents and gave them their address. (6) My father wanted to swim in the pool, but he had forgotten his swimming trunks. (7) They won the shuffleboard tournament for their age group. (8) The captain and my father had his picture taken shaking hands. (9) My parents liked the captain and crew for its friendliness. (10) They said they'd like to go again, but this time with their family.

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## B. Writing with Pronouns

Have you ever been on a vessel on water or imagined going on such a voyage? Was it a canoe on a slow-moving river, a cruise ship on an ocean, or something in between? Write a description of a voyage you have taken or imagined, including mention of the crew (if only yourself), fellow passengers (if any), and the reason for your trip. Be sure to include at least five personal pronouns with clear antecedents.

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# Other Pronoun Problems

## Reteaching

A pronoun may be used with an appositive, in an appositive, or in a comparison. An **appositive** is a noun or pronoun that follows another noun or pronoun and identifies or renames it. The pronoun *we* or *us* may be followed by an appositive. To determine whether to use *we* or *us*, drop the appositive from the sentence, and determine whether the pronoun is a subject or an object.

We dining critics have high standards. (We have high standards.)  
This restaurant pleased us critics. (The restaurant pleased us.)

A pronoun used in an appositive is in the same case it would take if the noun were missing.

The chefs, Abel and she, planned the menu. (*She* acts as a subject of *planned*.)  
We congratulated the chefs, Abel and her. (*Her* acts as an object of *congratulated*.)

**Pronouns in Comparisons** You can make a comparison using *than* or *as* to begin a clause. If you omit the final words of the clause, it is said to be **elliptical**. To determine the correct pronoun to use in an elliptical clause, mentally fill in the unstated words.

Alain appreciates fine food more than I. (more than I appreciate fine food)  
Alain appreciates fine food more than me. (more than Alain appreciates me)

**Reflexive and Intensive Pronouns** A pronoun ending in *-self* or *-selves* may be used reflexively; that is, it refers to a preceding noun or pronoun. The same pronoun used intensively simply adds emphasis. It is incorrect to use a reflexive pronoun or an intensive pronoun without an antecedent.

I myself prepared the soufflé. (used as intensive pronoun)  
I blamed myself for the ruined soufflé. (used as reflexive pronoun)

## A. Choosing the Correct Pronoun

In each sentence, underline the correct pronoun form.

1. (Us, We) chefs can sometimes seem arrogant and opinionated.
2. Maurice uses different techniques than (I, me).
3. They interviewed two chefs, Louise and (he, him), for the opening.
4. They would have interviewed (myself, me), too, but I wasn't interested.
5. You usually eat more than (me, I).
6. The last couple to arrive, Fred and (her, she), were late for the first course.
7. Next time, they (themselves, themselves) can prepare their own dinner.
8. Tomorrow they will interview (we, us) applicants for the busboy opening.

## B. Using Reflexive and Intensive Pronouns Correctly

In each set, underline the correct sentence.

1. If you have prepared this dish yourself, give me some pointers. / If yourself have prepared this dish, give me some pointers.
2. Rita limited herself to 300 calories. / Rita limited Rita to 300 calories.
3. Don't let myself influence your choice. / Don't let me influence your choice
4. Himself the chef prefers hot dogs. / The chef himself prefers hot dogs.

**Other Pronoun Problems***More Practice***A. Choosing the Correct Pronoun**

In each sentence, underline the correct pronoun form.

1. Elena is as good a hockey player as (he, him).
2. The volunteers, you and (they, them), will handle the phones tonight.
3. The matter is strictly between (we, us) bikers and them.
4. (Myself, I myself) never noticed how late it was.
5. Tomorrow (we, us) shoppers will hurry to the sales.
6. Coach Leone played Chris more than (I, me).
7. The clerk told the shoppers, the Hill's and (we, us), that the store was closing.
8. (We, Us) writers sometimes work late to meet our deadlines.
9. Benjamin told (he, himself) to pay attention to the alarm clock in the morning.
10. Mom is better at building bookcases than (she, her).
11. Heavy traffic made the bus riders, Gregory and (she, her), late for school again.
12. The manager asked (we, us) new workers to stay late.
13. Both singers, Walter and (her, she), plan to try out for the next musical.
14. The loud radio in that car is deafening both the driver and (we, us) pedestrians on the same street.
15. Probably, more people have heard him than (we, us).

**B. Using Pronouns Correctly**Write an appropriate pronoun on the line in each sentence. Do not use the pronoun *you* or any possessive pronoun.

1. The waiter gave us and \_\_\_\_\_ a laugh with his fake French accent.
2. Smart diners let \_\_\_\_\_ waiters guide them in choosing their menus.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ Europeans are less dependent on fast-food restaurants than Americans.
4. Pierre knows almost as much about this matter as \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Vondra \_\_\_\_\_ was curious about what was in the ratatouille.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ and Helena, the new students, ask many questions.
7. He prepares quiche almost as well as \_\_\_\_\_.
8. I taught \_\_\_\_\_ how to make mousse.
9. \_\_\_\_\_ connoisseurs should write a book.
10. Let's ask the waiters, Tom and \_\_\_\_\_.

## Other Pronoun Problems

### Application

#### A. Writing Elliptical Sentences Using Pronouns

Write an elliptical sentence with the same meaning as each of the following sentences. Replace the boldfaced noun with a pronoun. Use the correct pronoun to communicate your meaning.

**EXAMPLE** Is Boris a better writer than **Natasha** is?  
*Is Boris a better writer than she?*

1. The artist who drew that portrait is more skillful than **Derek** is.

\_\_\_\_\_

2. The children phoned their online server more than **Grandma** phoned her server

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Roberto painted more props for the play than **Victor** painted.

\_\_\_\_\_

4. The children phoned their online server more than they phoned **Grandma**.

\_\_\_\_\_

5. Do you think that Gina works faster than **Mario** works?

\_\_\_\_\_

#### B. Proofreading for Correct Pronoun Usage

Proofread the following paragraph. When you find a pronoun used incorrectly, cross it out. Then insert this proofreading symbol  $\surd$  and write the correct pronoun above it.

Us travelers to Paris love to eat in fine restaurants. In fact, nobody likes a good sit-down dinner more than me. Still, travelers on a budget—Helen and Mary and me, for example—sometimes have to save money by buying food in a grocery store and eating it as we stroll and gawk. Helen and Mary don't like to do this as much as me, but they themselves said when we started out that we shouldn't spend more than \$1,000 apiece this trip. Mary's spending habits are the worst. She said her and Helen, two of the pokiest walkers you ever met, needed a balanced diet every day to keep up her strength for so much sightseeing. Then she's always asking me—their personal accountant, it seems—how much we've spent so far. Next time, I'm going to tell Mary to go to her fancy restaurants by themselves. I'm not going to play budget police to tourists who can't keep tabs on her own spending—Helen and she.

**Pronoun-Reference Problems****Reteaching**

A pronoun should always refer clearly to a specific, stated antecedent.

**General reference** Readers may be confused when a pronoun refers to a general idea rather than to a specific noun. Correct the problem by rewriting the sentence(s) to make the antecedent clear or by replacing the pronoun with a noun or gerund.

**AWKWARD** Leonardo Da Vinci's inventions were related to his art, which is not surprising.

**REVISED** That Leonardo Da Vinci's inventions were related to his art is not surprising.

**Indefinite reference** Using a pronoun without any antecedent at all results in indefinite reference. Avoid using *it*, *you*, and *they* if they do not refer to a specific person or thing.

**AWKWARD** In Leonardo's notebooks, you get drawings of his inventions.

**REVISED** Leonardo's notebooks feature drawings of his inventions.

**Ambiguous reference** An ambiguous reference occurs when more than one possible antecedent exists for a pronoun. Indicate clearly what each pronoun refers to.

**AWKWARD** Leonardo and Michelangelo were contemporaries; he was a painter, sculptor, architect, and poet.

**REVISED** Leonardo and Michelangelo were contemporaries; Michelangelo was a painter, sculptor, architect, and poet.

**Identifying Clear Pronoun References**

In each pair of sentences below, one sentence has an indefinite, general, or ambiguous pronoun reference. The other is correct. Underline the one that is correct.

1. Isaac Newton and Gottfried Wilhelm von Leibniz invented calculus independently and at the same time; he was a scientist, philosopher, and diplomat.

Isaac Newton and Gottfried Wilhelm von Leibniz invented calculus independently and at the same time; Leibniz was a scientist, philosopher, and diplomat.

2. Newton wrote on mathematics and optics, which was a great achievement.

Newton's writing on mathematics and optics was a great achievement.

3. His *Principia Mathematica* includes a range of topics from gravitation to tides.

In his *Principia Mathematica*, you get everything from gravitation to tides.

4. In the law of universal gravitation, it describes everything from apples falling from trees to the mutual attraction of stars and planets.

The law of universal gravitation describes everything from apples falling from trees to the mutual attraction of stars and planets.

5. Newton probably never met Leibniz; he lived in Germany.

Newton probably never met Leibniz, who lived in Germany.

6. Leibniz said the basic element of the universe is the monad, but that's simplistic.

Leibniz said the basic constituent element of the universe is the monad, but the notion of the monad is simplistic.

7. Newton also worked in alchemy and astronomy, which contributed to what was called natural philosophy in his day.

Newton's work in alchemy and astronomy contributed to what was called natural philosophy in his day.



**Pronoun-Reference Problems***More Practice***Avoiding Indefinite, General, and Ambiguous References**

Rewrite the following sentences to correct indefinite, general, and ambiguous pronoun references. More than one interpretation may be possible. Add any words that are needed to make the meaning clear.

1. Thomas Edison, who invented the light bulb, didn't see the usefulness of electricity for power, which is hard to understand.

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2. He and his assistants also invented things like the phonograph and moving pictures, and modern life would have been very different without them.

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3. Among inventors, you have what could be called pure scientists and applied scientists.

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4. Edison was clearly in the applied scientist category, where they develop scientific ideas into practical items.

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5. In the pure scientist category, you have inventions that they come up with in the course of research, not by inventing to fill a need.

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6. One "pure scientist" inventor was William Roentgen, who discovered the x-ray that resulted in the first x-ray photographs.

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7. In between, you have people like Nikola Tesla, who worked with George Westinghouse; he once worked for Edison.

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8. Tesla helped Westinghouse develop the universal electrical system, and this development led to his most successful business.

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# Pronoun Reference Problems

## Application

### A. Eliminating Pronoun Reference Problem

Revise the sentences below to correct all indefinite, general, or ambiguous pronoun reference problems. More than one interpretation may be possible.

1. Vera jogs because it keeps her trim.

\_\_\_\_\_

2. I heard them say on the radio that the earth's climate may be changing.

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Magma forms deep within the earth, and when its crust breaks, it erupts.

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Ungulates are mammals with hoofs; this includes horses and llamas.

\_\_\_\_\_

5. It says in the recipe that rhubarb is a fruit, but it is really a plant stalk.

\_\_\_\_\_

### B. Using Clear Pronoun References

In the following paragraph, find five sentences with indefinite, general, or ambiguous pronoun references. Revise the sentences on the lines below.

(1) I think I would have liked to have been an inventor—but in the old days, not now. (2) By now they've already invented all the good stuff. (3) And if I wanted to be an inventor in modern times, you would have to know too much about electronics, calculus, physics, and other sciences. (4) I don't want to spend my life in classes! (5) To be perfectly honest, I don't think I could ever have invented a computer. (6) But I could have invented some of the more basic things—the pulley, the inclined plane, maybe even the wheel. (7) Which is what really benefits the human race. (8) Logical, straightforward things—that's what I'd be good at. (9) I often think about this, which is sad. (10) I think I was born too late.

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