

## The Forms of the Pronoun (II)

The **possessive form** of a pronoun is used to show ownership. There are two groups:

1. Personal pronouns used as adjectives to modify nouns:

my    your    his    her    its    our    your    their

The mayor came to *our* house.

2. Personal pronouns used as subjects, predicate words, or objects of verbs or prepositions:

mine    yours    his    hers    its    ours    yours    theirs

This pen is *yours*. (predicate word)

*Hers* has blue ink. (subject of verb)

Len can't find *his*. (object of verb)

Something is wrong with *mine*. (object of preposition)

**Using the Correct Form of Pronouns** Underline the correct pronoun from those given in parentheses. On the line, write whether the pronoun has the *subject*, *object*, or *possessive* form.

1. Dan told (I, me) a tall tale. \_\_\_\_\_
2. This is (his, him). \_\_\_\_\_
3. Mom and I invited (they, them) for the weekend. \_\_\_\_\_
4. Each of (us, we) wants the window seat. \_\_\_\_\_
5. (Them, They) are the hardest workers. \_\_\_\_\_
6. (Her, Hers) was the best essay. \_\_\_\_\_
7. That notebook must be (yours, your, you). \_\_\_\_\_
8. Peter lost his sweater and (my, mine). \_\_\_\_\_
9. These are my papers and the rest are (they, theirs). \_\_\_\_\_
10. (She, Her) is the best coach in the league. \_\_\_\_\_
11. (Mine, My) is the oldest bike in the rack. \_\_\_\_\_
12. Who borrowed (you, your, yours) skateboard? \_\_\_\_\_
13. (Our, Ours) kite was made to look like a dragon. \_\_\_\_\_
14. The bus driver gave (he, his, him) a transfer. \_\_\_\_\_

## *Pronouns in Compound Subjects and Compound Objects*

Whenever you are in doubt about which form of the pronoun to use in a compound sentence part, drop out the noun. Read the sentence with just the pronoun, and you will usually choose the right one. If there are two pronouns in the compound part, read the sentence for each pronoun separately.

A package arrived for (he? him?) and (I? me?).

A package arrived for *him*.

A package arrived for *me*.

Caution: After forms of *be*, use only *I*, *you*, *we*, *he*, *she*, or *they* as predicate pronouns.

His partners in the match will be *Mandy and I*.

**Using the Correct Pronoun in Compound Sentence Parts** Underline the correct pronoun in each sentence.

1. Were you and (they, them) the winners?
2. The teacher called on Stan and (I, me).
3. Just between you and (I, me), I think this is easy.
4. The Becks and (we, us) have never met.
5. Lily and (I, me) drew the cartoons.
6. (He, Him) and I are co-captains.
7. The principal reminded the staff and (we, us) about the new rules.
8. The cashier gave Melanie and (he, him) too much change.
9. My sisters and (I, me) share clothes.
10. Everyone asks Mom and (I, me) how we get along so well.
11. A taxi is taking (they, them) and us to the airport.
12. My grandparents invited my cousins and (we, us) for a visit.
13. Fishing is relaxing for Lynette and (I, me).
14. (She, Her) and her friend were giggling.
15. Wait for them and (I, me) after class.
16. Will you drive the Breens and (we, us) to school?
17. The Jaspers and (he, him) are good friends.
18. Rosita borrowed the record from my brother and (I, me).
19. The best dancers were Kim and (him, he).
20. Jerry and (she, her) look alike.

## Using Who, Whom, and Whose

The words *who*, *whom*, and *whose* may be used to ask questions. When used in this way, they are interrogative pronouns.

*Who* is the subject form. It is used as the subject of a verb.

*Who* ordered the mushroom omelet? (*Who* is subject of *ordered*.)

*Whom* is the object form. It is used as the direct object of a verb or as the object of a preposition.

*Whom* have we omitted? (*Whom* is direct object of *have omitted*.)

*To whom* shall I complain? (*Whom* is object of the preposition *to*.)

*Whose* is the possessive form. It can be used to modify a noun. When it is used without a noun, it may be the subject or object of a verb.

*Whose* gloves are these? (*Whose* modifies *gloves*.)

*Whose* are these? (*Whose* is subject of *are*.)

*Whose* did you borrow? (*Whose* is object of *did borrow*.)

**Using *Who*, *Whom*, and *Whose* Correctly** Underline the correct interrogative pronoun in each sentence.

1. For (who, whom, whose) was the message intended?
2. (Who, Whom, Whose) held the winning ticket?
3. (Who, Whom, Whose) received the grand prize?
4. (Who, Whom, Whose) are those?
5. To (who, whom, whose) was the letter addressed?
6. (Who, Whom, Whose) is this?
7. (Who, Whom, Whose) wrote the play *Fiddler on the Roof*?
8. (Who, Whom, Whose) is your favorite quarterback?
9. With (who, whom, whose) did you discuss the question?
10. I don't know (who, whom, whose) tape recorder this is.
11. (Who, Whom, Whose) will you vote for?
12. (Who, Whom, Whose) has read *The Keeper of the Isis Light* by Monica Hughes?
13. By (who, whom, whose) was the mural painted?
14. (Who, Whom, Whose) blouse are you wearing?
15. (Who, Whom, Whose) videotape is that?
16. (Who, Whom, Whose) are you?
17. (Who, Whom, Whose) are we waiting for?
18. (Who, Whom, Whose) supplied the refreshments for the dance?

## Possessive Pronouns and Contractions

The possessive pronouns *its*, *your*, *their*, and *whose* sound the same as these contractions: *it's* (it is or it has), *you're* (you are), *they're* (they are), and *who's* (who is or who has). Because the possessive pronouns and the contractions sound alike, they are sometimes confused.

There are two simple rules to follow to make sure that you use possessive pronouns and contractions correctly:

1. When you use one of two words that sound alike, ask yourself whether it stands for one word or two. If it stands for two words, it is a contraction and needs an apostrophe.
2. Never use an apostrophe in a possessive pronoun.

*It's* raining outside. (contraction) The puppy wagged *its* tail.

**Using Possessive Pronouns and Contractions** Underline the correct word from those given in parentheses.

1. Put (you're, your) books on the shelf.
2. (Its, It's) such a bright day!
3. (Whose, Who's) raincoat is this?
4. (Whose, Who's) going to mow the grass?
5. Our neighbors loaned us (their, they're) rake.
6. My plant has outgrown (it's, its) pot.
7. (It's, Its) becoming cold in here.
8. (Who's, Whose) responsible for cleaning up?
9. (They're, Their) ready to leave now.
10. Do you have (your, you're) bus fare?
11. I think (its, it's) time to go.
12. (Your, You're) going to be late.
13. Ask (whose, who's) wallet this is.
14. Everyone (whose, who's) going to the game must have a ticket.
15. The cat drank (its, it's) milk slowly.
16. (Your, You're) allowance is more than mine.
17. Are (they're, their) assignments completed?
18. (They're, Their) very generous.
19. (Whose, Who's) composition was published in the school paper?
20. Be careful when (your, you're) ice-skating.

## Special Pronoun Problems

**We and Us with Nouns** When you use phrases like *we girls* and *us boys*, you must be sure to use the correct form of the pronoun. You can tell which pronoun to use by dropping the noun and saying the sentence without it.

**Problem** (We, Us) boys are in the tournament.

**Correct** We are in the tournament.

**Correct** We boys are in the tournament.

**Them and Those** The word *them* is always a pronoun. It is always used as an object of a verb or preposition.

*Those* is sometimes a pronoun and sometimes an adjective. If a noun appears immediately after it, *those* is probably an adjective. Used without a noun, it is a pronoun.

We called *them*. (object of verb)

I asked for *those*. (object of preposition *for*)

*Those* problems are easy. (adjective modifying *problems*)

**Using Pronouns Correctly** Underline the correct word from those given in parentheses.

1. (Them, Those) two are my favorite singers.
2. Dad expects (us, we) girls to help.
3. (We, Us) eighth graders are in charge of planning the dance.
4. No one warned me about (those, them) rocks.
5. Have you asked (those, them) people for help?
6. The scoutmaster asked (we, us) boys to wear hiking boots.
7. It's hard for (we, us) Americans to imagine life in medieval times.
8. Put all of (them, those) papers away.
9. (Those, Them) snowdrifts are over my head.
10. Do (we, us) swimmers need to wear caps?
11. (Them, Those) sopranos sing very well.
12. Some of (we, us) students helped set up chairs for the assembly.
13. Do you want to walk home with Mary Beth and (we, us) boys?
14. (Them, Those) floor boards are unsafe.
15. After school, (us, we) girls go to basketball practice.
16. We called (them, those) on the telephone.
17. (Them, Those) are the presents for Sam.
18. Terry asked (them, those) about the school play.

## Pronouns and Their Antecedents

The antecedent of a pronoun is the noun or another pronoun for which the pronoun stands.

The flowers have lost *their* petals. (*Their* stands for *flowers*. *Flowers* is the antecedent.)

Several of the people left *their* gloves here. (*Several* is the antecedent of *their*.)

**A pronoun must agree with its antecedent in number.** A pronoun must be singular if its antecedent is singular. It must be plural if its antecedent is plural.

The visitors removed *their* coats. (*Visitors* is plural; *their* is plural.)  
Everybody folded *his* or *her* test paper. (*Everybody* is singular; *his* or *her* is singular.)

**Making Pronouns Agree with Their Antecedents** Underline the correct pronoun in each sentence.

**Example** Each of the runners tried to do his or her, their) best.

1. The animals were in (its, their) cages.
2. Each of the boys ate (his, their) meal silently.
3. All of the salespeople sold (his, their) goods.
4. Everyone came forward to receive (her, their) prize.
5. Is anyone ready for (his, their) dessert?
6. Each of us has finished (our, her) composition.
7. Neither of the speakers gave (his or her, his) speech.
8. Neither of the cats had (its, their) claws clipped.
9. Some of the girls want (her, their) seats changed.
10. Everyone took (her, their) seat.
11. Somebody has left (their, his or her) books here.
12. The puppets took (its, their) bows.
13. Anyone in the choir can bring (his, their) family.
14. No one should eat (his or her, their) lunch before running.
15. Everybody needs (her, their) ticket to enter.
16. Each of the children took (his or her, their) picture home.
17. One of the speakers forgot (his, their) notes.
18. Some of the books lost (its, their) jackets.
19. Each of us designed and built (her, their) own bookshelf.
20. Many of the people wore (his, their) boots.