

11 CASE

The case form of a pronoun shows its function in a sentence: the subjective case performs the action; the objective case received the action; and the possessive case shows ownership.

Study the following forms:

Personal Pronouns			
	Subjective	Objective	Possessive
Singular			
1 st Person	I	Me	My, mine
2 nd Person	You	You	Your(s)
3 rd Person	He, She, It	Him, Her, It	His, Her(s), Its
Plural			
1 st Person	We	Us	Our(s)
2 nd Person	You	You	Your(s)
3 rd Person	They	Them	Their(s)
	Who	Whom	Whose
	Whoever	Whoever	Whoever

Ex: *I* took my father to the doctor. (subjective)
 My father took *me* to the doctor. (objective)
 I took *my* father to *my* doctor. (possessive)



NOTE 1: Possessive pronouns DO NOT use apostrophes.

NOTE 2: The proper case following a form of the verb to be is always subjective. The verb is particularly tricky because it may take various forms.

NOTE 3: Always use *who* or *whom* to refer to people. *Which* and *that* refer to things.

TECHNIQUES TO REMEMBER

1. When a sentence has more than one subject or more than one object, cross out the extras to determine the correct form.

Ex: **Emma, Liam, and (he, him) went to the Annual Salt Water Fishing Contest in Carrabelle.**

Would you say, "*He went to the contest*" or "*Him went to the contest*"?

Ex: **I went with Noah and (he, him).**

Would you say, "*I went with he,*" or "*I went with him*"?

2. A comparison uses *than* or *as* and always implies a second verb, though the verb may not be written. When you supply the missing verb, the correct case becomes apparent.

Ex: **Jesse sketches as well as (they, them).**

Would you say, "*Jesse sketches as well as they do*" or "*Jesse sketches as well as them do*"?

3. Whom is the objective case form of who: remember that whom ends with an -m as do the objective pronouns him and them. Switch the word order in the troublesome phrase and substitute the he/him or they/them for who/whom. Then you will know which form to choose. Always turn a question into a statement before you attempt this technique.

Ex: I like students (who, whom) pretend to be interested.

Would you say, "They pretend to be interested" or "Them pretend to be interested"?

Ex: I am familiar with the actor (who, whom) they cast in that role.

Would you say, "They cast he in the role" or "They cast him in that role"?

Ex: To (who, whom) did you hand your homework?

Would you say, "You handed your homework to he" or "You handed your homework to him"?

When *who(m)* functions as a part of two clauses, use the second clause to determine the correct form.

Ex: Give the dictionary to (whomever, whoever) needs it.

Would you say, "He needs it" or "Him needs it"?

REFLEXIVE PRONOUNS

Reflexive pronouns are formed by adding *-self* or *-selves* to the personal pronoun.

Reflexive Pronouns	
Singular	
1 st Person	Myself
2 nd Person	Yourself
3 rd person	Himself, herself, itself
Plural	
1 st Person	Ourselves
2 nd Person	Yourselves
3 rd Person	Themselves

NOTE: *Hisself*, *theiself*, and *theirselves* are not words.

A reflexive pronoun is used ONLY when it refers to a noun or pronoun already present. Do not use a reflexive pronoun in place of a simple personal pronoun.

Yes: I handed my homework to Jamie himself.

Yes: The girl looked alarmed when she cut herself.

No: Allie and myself went to the pool.

