

## Pronoun Case

In a sentence, a pronoun is a word that can be used as a substitute for an established noun. Depending upon the position of a pronoun within a sentence, the pronoun is called either a subjective case pronoun or an objective case pronoun. The **subjective case** includes pronouns that act as subjects of a sentence. The **objective case** includes pronouns that act as objects of the sentence. For example:

- **Subjective case:** She ate lunch. (*she is the subject of the sentence*)
- **Objective case:** We saw him. (*him is the object of the sentence*)

### Subjective Case Pronouns

	Singular	Plural
First Person:	I	we
Second Person:	you	you
Third Person:	he, she, it	they
	who	

### Objective Case Pronouns

	Singular	Plural
First Person:	me	us
Second Person:	you	you
Third Person:	him, her, it	them
	whom	

Choosing the **pronoun case** can often be confusing when there are two pronouns joined by “and” or a noun and pronoun joined by “and.” Try to choose the correct pronoun that should be used in the following sentence:

**My nephew went to the park with my sister and \_\_\_\_.** (*Should I or me go in the blank?*)

When deciding which pronoun to use, refer to the following technique:

- 1) Read the sentence using each pronoun **individually** without saying the noun *my sister*.
- 2) Now determine which one makes sense with the rest of the sentence:  
**My nephew went to the park with I** *or* **My nephew went to the park with me.**
- 3) Clearly, the sentence makes sense with the pronoun **me**.
- 4) The sentence should read: My nephew went to the park with my sister and **me**.

The same technique can be used in choosing the pronoun case when there is a **pronoun** followed by a **noun**. Read the sentence as if the noun is not there and say the pronoun alone. For example:

- **\_\_\_\_ students are demanding that the lunch prices be reduced.** (*Should the pronoun we or us go in the blank? We is the correct pronoun because it makes sense with the rest of the sentence when the noun “students” is taken out.*)

- The employer gave \_\_\_ workers a raise. (Should the pronoun **we** or **us** go in the blank? Gave *we* a raise? Gave *us* a raise? --the correct pronoun case is **us**.)

## Techniques for Determining the Pronoun Case of *Who*

- I. **Who or Whom?** Generally, *whom* should be used when it is followed by a **noun** or **pronoun**. Use *who* if it is **not** followed by a noun or pronoun.
- He is the one \_\_\_ stole my money. (Should *who* or *whom* go in the blank? **Who** is the correct answer because it is followed by “stole” which is not a noun or pronoun.)
  - Amy is an excellent student \_\_\_ teachers and fellow students admire. (Should *who* or *whom* go in the blank? **Whom** is the correct answer because it is followed by the noun “teachers.”)
- II. **Who, Whose, Whom, Whoever, or Whomever?** As the chart below shows, *who/whoever* takes a subject form, *whose* takes a possessive form, and *whom/whomever* takes an object form.

	Subject Form	Possessive Form	Object Form
Singular	<i>he</i> who, whoever	<i>his</i> whose	<i>him</i> whom, whomever
Plural	<i>they</i> who, whoever	<i>their</i> whose	<i>them</i> whom, whomever

\*\*The forms of *he* and *they* are included in the chart as a guide to help you choose which pronoun case of *who* is correct.\*\*

- 1) When using a form of *who*, restate the sentence using the correct form of he or they. An example is this sentence: **Send invitations to \_\_\_\_\_ you want.**
- 2) Should the pronoun *whoever* or *whomever* be used in this blank?
- 3) To answer this, restate the sentence using the correct form of he or they: **Send invitations to them OR Send invitations to him.**
- 4) Now see which form of *who* coordinates with “them” and “him” in the chart.
- 5) As you can see, the correct form of *who* is **whomever**.
- 6) The sentence should read: Send invitations to **whomever** you want.