

# Using Pronouns Correctly

## Subject Pronouns (the subjects—doers—of verbs):

- 1 Use a subject pronoun for both pronouns when there is a compound (more than one) subject.

My friend and **I** hung out at the mall.

She and **I** share our clothes with each other.

Shirley and **he** are going to the movies.

**Practice:** Ralph and **they / them** went camping.

- 2 Use a subject pronoun after forms of the verb *be* (*am, are, is, was, were, has been, have been*)

It was **I** that called you. (**I** was the one who called you.)

It is **they** entering the store. (**They** are entering the store.)

That was **he** on the phone. (**He** was on the phone.)

**Practice:** It was **I / me** who crashed the truck into the wall, not **he / him**.

- 3 Use a subject pronoun after *than* or *as*. (Hint: Mentally add the “missing” verb at the end of the sentence.)

Ralph can dance better than **I** (can).

Shirley is as tall as **he** (is).

Ralph drives faster than **she** (does).

**Practice:** No one talks on the phone more than **her / she**, but I text as much as **her / she**.

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## Object Pronouns (the objects—receivers—of verbs and the objects of prepositions):

I argued with Ralph and **her**.

My mom drove my friend and **me** to the store.

Whom did she want to tell? (She wants to tell whom [him].)

- 1 Use an object pronoun following a preposition (to him; for him; with him; by him; of him)

Shirley gave **her** cat to two friends, Ralph and **him**.

I went to the movies with Ralph and **her**.

My friends and I are going to the movies with **him** and Shirley.

**Practice:** Shirley went camping with Ralph and **they / them**.

## Pronoun Agreement (match singular to singular; plural to plural ):

- 1 Subjects joined by *and* need a plural verb (as in  $1 + 1 = 2$ ).

Salt *and* pepper **taste** good on meat.

- 2 When subjects are joined by *either ... or / neither ... nor / not only ... but also*, the verb needs to match the subject closer to the verb.

*Either* salt *or* **pepper is** good on meat.

*Either* salt *or* other **spices are** good on meat.

*Neither* salt *nor* **pepper is** good on meat.

*Neither* salt *nor* other **spices are** good on meat.

- 3 The following pronouns always take **singular verbs**: one, none, anyone, everyone, someone; nobody, anybody, everybody, somebody; nothing, anything, everything, something; each, either, neither.

Each of the children needs some attention.

Neither of the stores has what I want.

Either of those chairs is comfortable.

Something about Rob's stories is suspicious.

None of the girls was ready for school.

Nobody among the 20 students has the right answer.

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**Directions:** Circle the correct *pronoun* in each sentence.

1. The allowance my parents give to my brother and **me / I** is not enough to buy much.
2. None of the clerks **have / has** a college degree.
3. My cousins asked my friends and **I / me** to go with them to the mall.
4. My coach said that I can bat better than **he / him**.
5. I believe it is **us / we** who should be allowed to vote, not **they / them**.
6. It was **I / me** that ratted you out to the police.
7. Each of my friends **has / have** given me a birthday gift.
8. No one has more DVDs than **her / she**.
9. To **who / whom** should I address the letter?
10. The collected food should go to **whoever / whomever** needs it.