

Pronouns and Possessives: Overview

Pronouns

FORM:

<u>Subject Pronouns</u>		<u>Object Pronouns</u>	
I	we	me	us
she	you	her	you
he	they	him	them
it		it	

Note: “**it**” and “**you**” have the same form as “**subject**” or “**object pronouns**”.

USE:

Pronouns are used to make sentences less redundant. Rather than repeating someone’s name (or an object name) over and over again, we insert pronouns to represent the person (or object). That way we can convey our ideas faster.

“Subject pronouns”

- replace the subject of a sentence. The subject is the actor or the main noun in a sentence.
E.g. (*Georgette*) She went to the movies.
- are used immediately after the verb “**to be**”.
E.g. *If you **were** he, what would you do?*
NOTE: This use of subject pronouns is grammatically correct, however, in spoken English, we frequently use the object pronoun instead.
For example: *If you were him, what would you do?*

“Object pronouns”

- replace the object of a sentence. The object receives the action of the subject.
E.g. *I saw (*Georgette*) her at the movies.*
- follow a preposition.
E.g. *David sat **next to** me.*

EXAMPLES:

Yes, she told (we / us) about it.
(They / Them) arrived a little late.
I saw (they / them) arrive at 9:30.
(We / Us) received her e-mail yesterday.

Possessives

FORM:

There are **three** common forms of showing “**possession**” in English.

1. The addition of *apostrophe s* (**'s**) to the end of the possessing noun. It can be put after names, common nouns and some pronouns.

E.g. *This is Diana's pen.* *This could be anyone's newspaper.*

Note: Following a plural noun ending in “**s**”, the apostrophe alone is used.

E.g. *The workers' parking lot is on the west side of the building.*

2. “**Possessive determiners**”, also known as “**possessive adjectives**” always introduce a noun. They refer to the possessor of the noun.

my	our
her	your
his	their
its	

E.g. *Oh no! A branch fell on my car.*

Welcome to our new home.

3. The “**possessive pronoun**” does two jobs: it replaces a noun and also indicates the possessor of the noun.

mine	ours
hers	yours
his	theirs

Note: “**Its**” cannot be used as a “**possessive pronoun**”.

E.g. *Yes, that red sports car is mine.*

Don't use that computer. It's hers.

EXAMPLES:

This new car is Angela and Bob's.

They really like their new car.

It is theirs.

Rewrite the story below using PRONOUNS and POSSESSIVES to make the passage less repetitive.

Cathy is my friend. Cathy is an elementary school teacher. Cathy teaches grade four. Cathy has many students. Cathy's students are very energetic. Cathy's students like to play outside, but Cathy's students never like to study.

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Cathy's husband is a police officer. Cathy's husband's name is Chris. Chris loves being a police officer, but Cathy worries about Chris's safety. Cathy always tells Chris to be very careful while Chris is at work.

Cathy and Chris have a young daughter. Cathy and Chris's daughter's name is Roxy. Roxy is two years old. Roxy is very cute. Roxy looks just like Cathy. Roxy and Cathy both have beautiful red hair. Chris and Cathy love Roxy very much. Chris and Cathy are good parents to Roxy. Roxy is a good daughter to Cathy and Chris.

In the following exercise, choose the correct PRONOUN or POSSESSIVE to complete each sentence.

1. You can do it as well as _____ (*he, him*).
2. _____ (*We, Us*), North Country people, speak very plainly.
3. The company has prepared a prospectus to be sent to all _____ (*it, its*) customers.
4. The prize was divided between George and _____ (*me, I*).
5. _____ (*Her, She*) is going abroad with my sister this summer.
6. A judge has _____ (*his, he*) duty to perform.
7. If you were _____ (*she, her*), where would you go?
8. _____ (*They, Them*) are responsible.
9. If you see John, will you tell _____ (*he, him*) what has happened?

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10. Neither of the countries would admit _____ (*their, them*) guilt in beginning the war.
11. _____ (*They, Them*) gave us the invitation.
12. You and _____ (*she, her*) are much better in Spanish than _____ (*me, mine, I*).
13. The voters have already given _____ (*them, their*) verdict.
14. _____ (*We, Us*) were all invited to the party.
15. Everybody felt that the new rules were directed at _____ (*he, him*) personally.
16. You had the same chance as _____ (*he, him*) and _____ (*them, they*).
17. Neither the book nor the papers could be found when the students needed _____ (*it, them*).
18. The salesman asked _____ (*me, I*) to try on the suit.
19. Susan invited _____ (*we, us*) to dinner.
20. They called really early and it woke _____ (*him, he*) up this morning.

Fill in the blanks with the correct word from the choices given.

1. Misfortunes like that aren't _____ fault.
a) each b) anybody c) no one's d) anybody's
2. Either the carpenter or the electrician can store _____ tools in the shed.
a) their b) his c) hers d) theirs
3. Although Alice has been to many plays, she still loves _____.
a) them b) it c) those d) its
4. Cliff and Al's car broke down yesterday, but luckily _____ knew how to fix it.
a) he b) she c) they d) Them

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5. There is no sense in getting angry with _____ radicals just because you disagree with them.
- a) those b) them c) this d) its
6. The reason she and _____ cousin, Alice, decided to take the train was that the bus was late.
- a) his b) those c) her d) its
7. Whoever called did not leave _____ number.
- a) its b) their c) you d) his
8. Every man and woman eighteen years of age is eligible to vote for the candidate of _____ choice.
- a) his b) their c) your d) hers
9. Those of us who are over fifty years of age should get _____ blood pressure checked regularly.
- a) his b) their c) our d) your
10. It is easy to talk about a problem, but not to resolve _____ .
- a) them b) him c) it d) its

Supply the correct PRONOUN or POSSESSIVE.

1. The puppy curled up between _____ (*he, him*) and _____ (*she, her*).
2. Didn't you suspect _____ (*she, her*)?
3. The time has come for _____ (*we, us*) to start studying diligently for our upcoming language test.
4. Both _____ (*she, her*) and Joan are good drivers.
5. Roger did not at first admit that _____ (*he, him*) was the author.
6. At the banquet the guests of honor were my sister and _____ (*me, I*).
7. They referred to _____ (*we, us*) in the news items.
8. _____ (*I, Me*) was the only one at home.
9. _____ (*He, Him*) could not possibly have been the person responsible for the accident.
10. She gave the book to _____ (*I, me*).

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11. _____ (*We, Us*), the people from the neighbourhood, will have a meeting in the school auditorium.
12. I told you it was _____ (*she, her*).
13. _____ (*We, Us*) would rather fight than switch.
14. This is a question for you and _____ (*them, they*) to decide.
15. I think _____ (*we, us*) should be allowed in free.
16. All of _____ (*we, us*) decided to leave the party at midnight.
17. I remember when my sister and _____ (*I, me*) would talk for hours.
18. The man saw Bob and _____ (*me, I*).
19. I would have heard _____ (*he, him*) if John had come in.
20. Jane says _____ (*she, her*) will not come.
21. I have known _____ (*he, him*) for many years.
22. I spoke to _____ (*she, her*) yesterday.
23. Evan asked _____ (*I, me*) to call _____ (*he, him*) at 2 o'clock.
24. All of _____ (*us, we*) need more practice in conversation.
25. At first Katherine couldn't believe that _____ (*he, him*) had been elected president.

Select the correct PRONOUN.

1. Please take these papers and give (*it, them*) to Mike.
2. Tom asked Tania and (*I, me*) about the new cinema.
3. Walter and (*I, me*) live in an apartment.
4. Just between you and (*I, me*), I think Jim is going to lose (*him, his*) bet.
5. When a player committed a foul, the referee blew (*him, his*) whistle and pointed at (*she, her*).
6. A boa constrictor, which is a very large snake, kills (*its, it's*) victims by strangling (*it, them*).
7. People can easily send a letter. (*It, They*) simply have to drop (*it, them*) into a mail box.
8. Jacqui said to her students, "Throughout the course, please write (*your, yours*) compositions on every other line, and be sure to write (*it, them*) in ink."
9. Both Ron and (*I, me*) are expecting some mail. Are those letters for (*he, him*) or (*I, me*)?
10. (*My, Mine*) roommate and (*I, me*) have to share a closet. (*She, Her*) keeps (*her, hers*) clothes on the left side, and I keep (*my, mine*) on the right side.

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11. (*Our, Ours*) house is almost the same as (*our, ours*) neighbour's house. The only difference in appearance is that (*our, ours*) is blue and (*their, theirs*) is white.
12. When I was in Florida, I observed an interesting fish-eating bird. (*It, They*) dives into the water and spears (*it's, its*) prey on (*it's, its*) long, pointed bill. Upon emerging from the water, (*it, they*) tosses the fish into the air and catches (*it, them*) in mid-air, swallowing (*it, them*) headfirst. (*It's, Its*) interesting to watch these birds in action. I enjoyed watching (*it, them*).

Find and correct the errors in PRONOUN usage in the following sentences.

1. Some North American food is very good, but I don't like most of them.
2. When we were schoolgirls, my sister and me used to play tennis after school every day.
3. If you want to pass your exams, you had better study very hard for it.
4. The work had to be finished by my boss and I after the store had closed for the night.

Select the correct PRONOUN or POSSESSIVE.

1. Who is going to clean the snow from the garage entrance, you or _____ (*I, me, myself*)?
2. The company is planning a series of lectures for _____ (*their, its, them*) executives.
3. Everyone expects to attend the concert except, my father, George and _____ (*I, me, myself*).
4. The concert was great. Everyone expected _____ (*its, it*) to end late.
5. After I had listened to the violinist and cellist, and enjoyed _____ (*them, their, theirs*) interpretations, I hurried home to practice.
6. _____ (*Us, We, Ourselves*), as parents who are interested in the welfare of our son, are strongly opposed to _____ (*him, it, his*) associating with that crowd.
7. If anyone has something to add, would _____ (*he, she, him, her, they*) please wait until the speaker is finished.
8. It was very nice of you to invite my husband, my mother and _____ (*I, me, mine*) for dinner.