

# Personal pronouns: Putting it all together

A **personal pronoun** is a word that replaces a noun in a sentence.

## Deciding what pronoun to use

Match the **number** (singular or plural), **gender** (masculine, feminine, neuter), and **form** (subject, object, possessive) of the noun you are replacing.

Singular pronouns			
	Subject	Object	Possessive
Masculine	he	him	his
Feminine	she	her	her, hers
Neuter	it	it	its
	I	me	my, mine
	you	you	your

Plural pronouns			
	Subject	Object	Possessive
Masculine	they	them	their, theirs
Feminine	they	them	their, theirs
Neuter	they	them	their, theirs
	we	us	our, ours
	you	your	yours

Examples:

- Singular feminine subject

Jennifer texts on her phone all day. She even texts at the beach.
- Singular neuter object

I parked the car in huge parking lot. Now I can't find it.
- Singular masculine possessive

I forgot John's address. I knew his address yesterday.
- Plural mixed gender subject

John and Jennifer walked to the car. They remembered where it was.
- Plural masculine possessive

We couldn't find Carl and Ming's keys. We looked everywhere for their keys.

## Using I or me in a sentence: Use I for the subject and me for the object. Name yourself second!

- Naming yourself as a subject

She and I went to the movies.
- Naming yourself as an object

The boss thanked Jen and me for our work.

To decide if you have chosen the right pronoun, try leaving the other pronoun out of the sentence and see if it sounds correct.

## Replacing singular nouns when you don't know the gender: Do not use their

Three different options:

- Use both his and her

Anybody could have his or her identity stolen.

The employee should submit his or her report each week.
- Use one pronoun, either masculine or feminine

The employee should submit her report each week.
- Rewrite the sentence to make the subject plural

Employees should submit their reports each week.

Do not use THEIR because the subject is singular.