**Choosing the Correct Pronoun**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Subjective Case** | **Objective Case** | **Possessive Case** |
| I, we  he, she, they | me, us  him, her, them | my, mine, our, ours  your, yours  her, hers, his  its, their, theirs |
| *Use the pronoun above when the pronoun’s function is one of the following:* | | |
| The pronoun is the subject of the verb.  The pronoun follows a linking verb. | The pronoun follows a preposition.  The pronoun is the direct or indirect object. | The pronoun is the possessive noun replacement.  The pronoun is an adjective. |

**Rule 1**

**When the Pronoun Follows a Linking Verb:**

Linking Verbs: (am, is, are, was, were, be, been, being)

A pronoun following a linking verb will be in the subjective case.

Example: It must have been he who left the flash drive here.

If you were I, what would you do?

pronoun

*linking verb \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Subjective case pronoun)*

**Rule 2**

**When the Pronoun Follows a Preposition:**

Prepositions: (to, for, but, between, like, and except) *Refer to your preposition handout for more!*

A pronoun following a preposition will be in the objective case.

Examples: Give all checks to him before the end of the day.

This discussion is between you and me.

Everyone except Sue and me will attend.

pronoun

*preposition \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Objective case pronoun)*

**Rule 3**

**Compound Subjects**

In compound subjects, ignore the extra noun or pronoun and its related conjunction, and say the sentence with the pronoun separately. Apply one of the pronoun rules to determine the correct pronoun.

Examples: ~~Shelley and~~ *she* signed up for the workshop. (Do not use *her*)

Give all checks to ~~Max or~~ *me* to sign. (Do not use *I)*

**Rule 4**

**Comparison statements (Using *than* or *as*)**

Comparison with *than: C*omplete the sentence by adding the missing word after the pronoun.

Example: Marilyn studies more than he. (…more than *he* studies)

Ashley is five years older than I. (…older than *I* am.)

Comparison with *as:* Complete the sentence by adding the missing words before the pronoun

Example: The TV volume annoys Marc as much as me. (…as much as it annoys *me*)

**Rule 5**

**Appositives**

Ignore the appositives to choose the correct pronoun.

Example: Good news for us ~~students~~! We ~~employees~~ are signing a petition.

**Rule 6 (Not in chapter)**

**To Be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (pronoun)**

The word found before “to be” will help you decide whether to use the subjective case or objective case pronoun.

If the word before “to be” is not a subject, use the subjective case pronoun.

Example: The contestant winner was believed to be *he*.

If the word before “to be” is a subject, use the objective pronoun.

Example: Marilyn expected the supervisor to be *him.*