

Avoiding incorrect pronouns

There is often confusion in the use of the words: ‘I’ and ‘me’, ‘she’ and ‘her’, ‘he’ and ‘him’, ‘we’ and ‘us’, ‘they’ and ‘them’.

‘I’, ‘she’, ‘he’, ‘we’ and ‘they’ are **personal pronouns** and are usually the **subject** of the sentence. That means they are the instigators of the action in the sentence:

I like travelling.

She went on holiday.

He has been made redundant.

We have no milk.

They are moving today.

‘Me’, ‘her’, ‘him’, ‘us’ and ‘them’ are usually the **objects** of the sentence. That means that something is ‘done’ to them:

The ball struck me.

The prize was given to her.

The tree fell on him.

The audience applauded us.

The teacher scolded them.

Confusion often arises when there is a name as well as the pronoun. It is sometimes thought that ‘I’ sounds better than ‘me’ but it is actually incorrect: