

## 2 Using Subject Pronouns

### FOCUS

Use **subject pronouns** as subjects of sentences and after linking verbs.

Use only subject pronouns as the subjects of verbs. Look at these sentences.

Nicole saw the ball coming.  
*She* snatched the ball from the air.

In the first sentence *Nicole* is the subject. In the second sentence *she* is the subject. Only the pronouns *I, you, he, she, it, we, or they* can be used as the subjects of verbs. For example, you would never say, "*Her* snatched the ball from the air."

Sometimes one or more pronouns appear in a compound subject. Read these sentences.

Jeff and (he, him) built a campfire.  
(She, Her) and (I, me) hiked four miles.

The pronouns appear in the subject parts of these sentences. Therefore, you use the subject pronouns *he, she, and I*. If you are unsure about what pronoun to use, try dividing the compound subject into two parts.

*Jeff* built a campfire. *He* built a campfire.

Then put the parts back together using that same pronoun.

*Jeff and he* built a campfire.

Use the same steps to choose pronouns for the second example.

*She* hiked four miles. *I* hiked four miles.

Sometimes a pronoun is followed by a noun in the subject part of a sentence. To know which pronoun is correct, follow the steps listed on the previous page.

(We, Us) girls swam across the lake.  
*We* swam across the lake. *Girls* swam across the lake.  
*We girls* swam across the lake.

Use subject pronouns after linking verbs also. Look at these sentences.

*He* was the highest scorer. The highest scorer was *he*.

Both sentences mean the same thing. The noun or pronoun that follows a linking verb simply renames the subject. Because the verb links the subject with another name for the subject, the noun or pronoun in the predicate must be in the same form as the subject. Therefore, only a subject pronoun can be used after a linking verb.

**A** Choose the correct pronoun from the parentheses in each sentence.


1. (They, Them) sent Gronam Ox a large carp to make gefilte fish.
2. (Him, He) and (I, me) both ran to answer the phone.
3. The fastest swimmers were Dwight and (she, her).
4. Where did (he, him) last see Hamed, his missing son?
5. (Her, She) and Juanita both love your monster stories.
6. Hurry! (Us, We) are late for their Halloween party!
7. (Us, We) neighbors often have a cookout on July 4.
8. The team captains are Amy and (he, him).
9. Seth and (me, I) peered through our telescopes at the moon.
10. (Them, They) always laugh at Shmendrick Numskull's jokes.

**B** Rewrite the second sentence in each pair, using a pronoun to replace the repeated words.

1. Mako and Afa went to a small island. Mako and Afa were late coming home.
2. Homer played checkers frequently. Homer often won.
3. The branch was dead. The branch cracked and fell.
4. Pam sang scales to warm up. Pam sang loudly.
5. Cal and Ann called. Cal and Ann want to see us.
6. Our treasure hunt is today. Our treasure hunt will be fun.
7. Hope and I ran through the rain. Hope and I got wet.
8. Sam threw his stick at the fox. Sam wanted to protect the swans.
9. Herb and I fell. Herb and I slipped on the ice.
10. Lilith and Ellen sat on the bench. Then Lilith and Ellen went back into the store.

**C** **Proofreading** Rewrite the following sentences, replacing the pronouns that are used incorrectly. Correct any other errors that you find.

Omar and Dave are performing a magic show, them will perform it on Saturday at 2:00 p.m. They're parents will come to it, and us students are all very excited. The only young performers in the show are them.

 **Write Now** Write a paragraph about your favorite singer, musician, author, athlete, or any other famous person. Use subject pronouns in your paragraph, and try to include a subject pronoun after a linking verb.

### Language Laugh

As seen in the local newspaper:

- After Governor Baldwin watched the lion perform, he was taken to Main Street and fed 25 pounds of raw meat in front of the Cross Keys Theater.



### 3 Using Object Pronouns

**FOCUS** Use object pronouns as the objects of verbs or prepositions.

#### Pronouns After Action Verbs

A noun does not change its form when it is used as the object of a verb. Pronouns, however, have special object forms. The object pronouns are *me*, *you*, *him*, *her*, *it*, *us*, and *them*. Notice that *you* and *it* can be used as both subject and object pronouns. Look at the object pronoun used in this sentence.

The lifeguard warned *us* about the jellyfish.

Pronouns are sometimes part of a compound object. If you are not sure which pronoun to use, try reading each part separately.

Have you seen (he, him) or (she, her)?

Have you seen *him*? Have you seen *her*?

Have you seen *him* or *her*?

#### Pronouns After Prepositions

A **preposition** is a word that is always followed by a noun or pronoun. The preposition shows a relationship between that noun or pronoun and the rest of the sentence. A noun or pronoun that follows a preposition is called the **object of the preposition**. A preposition and its object, plus all the words that tell about the object, make up a **prepositional phrase**. Look at these sentences and see that object pronouns are used as objects of prepositions.

\* We waited for *Zach* and *Ramona*. We waited for *them*.

See pages 162-165 for more information about prepositions and prepositional phrases. To find a list of common prepositions, see page 162.



## Exercises

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**A** Write the object pronouns from the following sentences.


1. The last time I was at bat, the ball almost hit me.
2. Tyree played the flute for Amadeus and them.
3. The ranger led the bird watchers and us to the nest.
4. The parrot's answer amused him.
5. Magicians' tricks always amaze her.

**B** In each sentence choose the correct pronoun from the parentheses.

1. Slowly the bear lumbered toward (I, me).
2. Tarik ruled over (them, they) long and wisely.
3. Do you believe Irma or (she, her)?
4. Miss Stein complimented the class and (he, him).
5. Uncle Burt chased (we, us) out of the barn.
6. Don't tell (I, me) the answer.
7. Sharp stalactites hung all around (we, us).
8. Lob curled up beside (her, she) and fell asleep.
9. This relay race depends on Francine and (him, he).
10. The skunk just ignored Toby and (they, them).

**C** **Proofreading** Rewrite the paragraph below, correcting pronoun usage and all other errors.

Today is the day scheduled for Dad and I to pick up our new puppy from the animal shelter. If it had ben up to my sister and I, us both would have taken him home last week. But dad told she and I that we had to make some preperations before a puppy came to live with us. It wouldnt have been fair to he or the family; We didn't even have a place for him to sleep. Howlling all night in the basement would not have been good for he or us.

 **Write Now** You have been promoted to a new job. Perhaps you've been a teacher and are going to become the principal of your school; maybe an assistant coach becoming head coach; or maybe a disk jockey becoming the station manager. Whatever your old job, you must write a list of tips for your replacement. Include at least four object pronouns in your parting advice.