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17.1 Case of Personal Pronouns

Key Information

Personal pronouns refer to persons or things. These pronouns have three cases: **Nominative**, **objective**, and **possessive**. The case of a personal pronoun depends upon its function in the sentence. Personal pronouns can function as subjects, complements, or objects or prepositions.

In a sentence with a compound subject or object, take out the conjunction and the other subject or object to help you figure out which form of the pronoun to use.

■ A. Choosing Proper Pronoun Case

In each of the following sentences, circle the correct pronoun in parentheses.

1. Michael and (I/me) didn't know much about northern lights.
2. Ms. Cerutti, my science teacher, asked (he/him) and (I/me) to write reports on this celestial phenomenon.
3. (He/Him) and (I/me) were to submit our reports to her by the end of the marking period.
4. She also said the decision of which reports would be entered in the science fair would be (her/hers).
5. Michael read faster than (I/me) because his book was so good.
6. I learned from listening to (him/his) summarizing.
7. For example, the scientific term is aurora borealis; (its/it's) name is almost as pretty as the phenomenon itself
8. The librarian told Michael and (I/me) that the lights are caused by electrical discharges in electrically unstable air.
9. The northern lights occur most often in mid-December; it astonished (he/him) and (I/me) the first time we saw them.
10. (He/him) and (I/me) hope that (we/us) and our families see more of them this winter.

■ B. Using Pronouns in Compound Parts of Sentences

For each of the following phrases, write a sentence that uses the phrase correctly.

1. (Beth and I) _____

2. (Beth and me) _____

3. (Gary and him) _____

4. (Gary and he) _____

5. (you and she) _____

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17.2 Pronouns with and as Appositives

Key Information	
If a pronoun is in apposition to a subject or predicate nominative, use the nominative case. The best math students, she and Matthew, are also good in science. [<i>Students</i> is the subject.]	If a pronoun is in apposition to an object, use the objective case. The math teacher praised the achievements of his best students, her and Matthew. [<i>Students</i> is the object of a preposition.]

A. Using Pronouns as Appositives

In each of the following sentences, underline the correct pronoun in parentheses.

1. The win pleased the team’s two biggest fans, Nick and (I/me).
2. All those associated with the team—the players and (they/them)—cheered.
3. The people with good seats, (we/us) and the coaches, saw a terrific game.
4. Our favorite players, Mitchell and (he/him), played well as usual.
5. After the game three of my friends—Bill, Davina, and (she/her)—went to a movie.

B. Writing Sentences with Pronouns as Appositives

Write five original sentences. In each sentence, include at least one pronoun that is used with or as an appositive. Write about a current news event, a recent activity at your school, or another topic of your choice.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

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17.3 Pronouns After *Than* and *As*

Key Information

In an elliptical adverb clause introduced by *than* or *as*, choose the case of the pronoun you would use if the missing words were present.

Karen scored more points than **he**. [The nominative pronoun *he* is the subject of

the incomplete adverb clause *than he scored*.]

Still, the team appreciated Karen as much as **her**. [The object pronoun *her* is the direct object of the incomplete adverb clause *as much as it appreciated her*.]

■ A. Using Pronouns After *Than* and *As*

In each of the following sentences, underline the correct pronoun in parentheses.

1. Dogs have better senses of smell than (we/us).
2. You can draw much better than (I/me).
3. The concert was enjoyed more by Jennifer than (he/him).
4. I learned to walk earlier than (she/her).
5. Did the special assembly interest you as much as (I/me)?
6. Daryl is better at balancing chemical equations than (she/her).
7. The stories of Dr. Seuss delight my sister as much as (they/them).
8. Does she really like pizza as much as (he/him).
9. Our neighbors painted their house the same week as (we/us).
10. The thought of shaking the governor's hand excited Anna as much as (I/me).

■ B. Writing Sentences with Pronouns After *Than* and *As*

Write five sentences of your own. In each sentence, include a pronoun used correctly after *than* or *as* in the manner indicated.

1. (nominative pronoun) _____

2. (nominative pronoun) _____

3. (objective pronoun) _____

4. (objective pronoun) _____

5. (nominative pronoun) _____

17.5 Pronoun-Antecedent Agreement

Key Information

A pronoun must agree with its antecedent in *number* (singular or plural) and *gender* (masculine, feminine, or neuter).

A talk show **host** asked *her* guest many questions. [singular feminine pronoun]

The brass **lamp** is losing *its* luster. [singular neuter pronoun]

The **fans** indicated *their* pleasure. [plural pronoun]

A pronoun must also agree with its antecedent in *person*. Avoid shifting pronouns from one person to another.

I want to go where **you** can swim. [shift from first to second person]

I want to go where **I** can swim. [consistent use of first person]

When a personal pronoun has an indefinite pronoun for its antecedent, make sure the pronouns agree in number.

Each of the boys is happy with **his** grade. [singular pronouns]

Several of the companies advertise **their** water filters vigorously. [plural pronouns]

■ A. Making Pronouns and Antecedents Agree

In each of the following sentences, fill in the blank with the appropriate pronoun. Make sure the pronoun you choose agrees with its italicized antecedent in person, number, and gender.

1. The wild *horse* refused to allow anyone onto _____ back.
2. The fifty *protesters* formed a human chain by locking _____ arms.
3. My *mother* sometimes forgets _____ briefcase.
4. *Mike* is thinking of selling _____ old bike.
5. The *boys* have memorized all _____ lines for the upcoming play.
6. *Randall* said _____ would not eat any food _____ could not recognize as animal or vegetable.
7. The local *citizens* voted against the plan to raise _____ taxes.
8. *Maria and her friends* are inviting everyone to _____ party.

■ B. Making Pronouns Agree with Indefinite Pronoun Antecedents

In each of the following sentences, fill in the blank with the appropriate possessive pronoun. Make sure the pronoun you choose agrees with its italicized antecedent in number.

1. *Each* of the candidates for office has been explaining _____ plans for the future.
2. *Many* of the people have made _____ decisions about whom to support.
3. *Several* of the early candidates have already withdrawn _____ names from ballots.
4. Later this year, *all* of the newspapers will print endorsements of the candidates of _____ choice.
5. *Everyone* hopes _____ own candidate will win.

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17.6 Clear Pronoun Reference

Key Information

Avoid vague pronoun reference. The pronouns *this*, *that*, *which*, and *it* should refer to a clearly stated antecedent.

The mechanic is looking for the problem, **which** could take a long time. [vague]

The mechanic is looking for the problem, and **his inspection** could take a long time. [clear]

Avoid ambiguous pronoun reference. If a pronoun seems to refer to more than one

antecedent, either reword the sentence to make the actual antecedent's identity clear or eliminate the pronoun.

Tennis player Jennifer Capriati smiled at fellow player Monica Seles when **she** was given the winner's check. [ambiguous]

Tennis player Jennifer Capriati smiled at fellow player Monica Seles when **Capriati** was given the winner's check. [clear]

■ Making Pronoun References Clear

Rewrite each of the following sentences to make all pronoun references clear.

1. When the cat entered the dog's pen, it became nervous. _____

2. The bill for the sculptor's new work was \$20,000, and this surprised the citizens. _____

3. After the Cardinals beat the Dodgers, they left for a nine-game road trip. _____

4. Marleen was saddened by the news, and it was evident on her face. _____

5. Whenever Rebecca eats dinner at Carla's house, she drinks iced tea. _____

6. Darrell is an excellent artist; this was apparent from his sketches. _____

7. It is disappointing when my favorite team loses. _____

8. The lawyer made his case for the defendant, and then he walked out of the courtroom. _____

9. When the snowflake hit the sidewalk, it melted. _____

10. The two athletes were exhausted, which made them unable to finish the marathon. _____

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18.2 Irregular Comparisons

<i>Key Information</i>					
A few modifiers used in making comparisons have irregular forms.			ill	worse	worst
<u>Positive</u>	<u>Comparative</u>	<u>Superlative</u>	far (distance)	farther	farthest
good	better	best	far (degree, time)	further	furthest
well	better	best	little (amount)	less	least
bad	worse	worst	many	more	most
badly	worse	worst	much	more	most

■ **A. Revising Incorrect Comparisons**

Each of the following sentences contains an incorrect comparative form. Draw a line through the incorrect word or words, and then write the correct form of the comparative modifier.

1. That has to be the worstest song ever written. _____
2. I'm a much more better table tennis player than she is. _____
3. He's the most good guitar player we've heard. _____
4. Is it further to Detroit or to Cleveland? _____
5. Use the recipe that calls for the littlest salt. _____

■ **B. Making Correct Comparisons**

Complete the following sentences with the correct degree of comparison of the modifier in parentheses.

1. The rebuilt engine ran the _____ of them all. (well)
2. I have progressed _____ in my study of French than my brother. (far)
3. That puppy is not the best-behaved dog, but he's not the _____ either. (bad)
4. The medical conditions of patients in intensive care are generally _____ than those of the patients in regular hospital rooms. (ill)
5. The home team won because they shot _____ than their opponents. (well).

■ **C. Using Correct Comparisons**

Write three sentences of your own that make comparisons. Be sure to use the correct form of the modifiers you choose.

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