

Something for You and Me

Use this chart as a handy reference guide for correct pronoun usage.

The first column lists pronouns that should be used for subjects (typically at the beginning of a sentence) and for subjective complements (words following linking verbs).

Examples

- A. **She and I** want a cookie. Cookie Monster says, “**Me** want a cookie,” but he’s using incorrect grammar. The pronouns “She and I” are the subjects of the sentence.
- B. The winners are **she and I**. Some people might say, “The winners are **her and me**,” but they are using incorrect grammar because the complements follow a linking verb (*are*). The pronouns **she and I** are the subjective complement. (These pronouns rename the subject.)

The second column lists pronouns that should be used for objects (direct objects that follow action verbs, indirect objects that indirectly receive the action of the verb, and objects of prepositions).

Examples

- A. My father took my sister and **me** on a camping trip. People may think “my sister and I” sounds better, but they are using incorrect grammar because “my sister and me” is used as the direct object of the verb *took*.
- B. If you have questions for the department chair or **me**, send us an email. Again, people often think “I” would sound more sophisticated here, but “me” is correct because it is used as the object of the preposition “for.”

Quick check: When you use a compound element, say each element separately to see which pronoun sounds better. For example, say each of the compound parts of the following **incorrect** sentence aloud: “Please help **my sister and I** understand this grammar.” *Please help my sister* sounds correct. *Please help I* sounds wrong. Separating the compound elements will help you “hear” the correct pronoun.

Subjective Case		Objective Case		Possessive Case		Pronouns used to rename the subject	
singular	plural	singular	plural	singular	plural	singular	plural
I	We	Me	Us	My	Our	I	We
You	You	You	You	Mine	Ours	He	You
He	You	Him	You	Your	Your	She	You
She	They	Her	Them	Yours	Yours		They
It		It		His	Their		
Who		Whom		Her	Theirs*		
				Hers	*None of these possessives contains apostrophes!		
				Its			
				Whose			

Note: Use possessive case before a gerund (ing words) and objective case before infinitives (to + a verb words.)