

INSTRUCTOR: Pronoun case.

Pronouns that can serve as the subject of a sentence are called subject pronouns or pronouns in the subjective case. Pronouns that receives the action of a verb or function as the object of a preposition are called object pronouns or pronouns in the objective case. A pronoun must be in the proper case to match its role in the sentence.

Pronouns in the subjective case include I, we, he, she, it, and they. In the sentence, he got the highest grade, he is the subject. In the sentence, they will need to study harder next time, they is the subject. Pronouns in the objective case include me, us, him, her, and them. In the sentence, Connor called me yesterday me is the object of the verb called. In the sentence, this secret will be kept between us, us is the object of the preposition between.

One common error in pronoun case is object pronouns that appear in the subject position. In the sentence, Oscar and me will celebrate later, the subject is Oscar and me. But me is an object pronoun. To fix the sentence change me to the subject pronoun I. Oscar and I will celebrate later. Now the entire subject Oscar and I is in the subjective case.

Another common error is subject pronouns that appear in the object position. In the sentence, Mario gave Oscar and I an extra helping of dessert, Oscar and I is the object of the verb gave. But I is a subject pronoun. To fix the sentence, change I to the object pronoun me. Mario gave Oscar and me an extra helping of dessert. Now the entire object Oscar and me is in the objective case.

Pronouns are useful tools but they can cause confusion if used incorrectly. Avoiding pronoun problems will make you a stronger writer.