

Helpful Pronoun Hints

- A pronoun must always agree in number, case, and gender with its antecedent.
 - Example 1: **Bob** found twenty dollars, which **he** saved for a rainy day.
 - ❖ The subject **Bob** is third-person, singular, and masculine, so we use the third-person, singular, masculine subjective pronoun **he**.
 - Example 2: **Bob** and **Mary Jane** found twenty dollars, which **they** saved for a rainy day.
 - ❖ Here we have a compound subject, as both **Bob** and **Mary Jane** are the ones doing the finding. For the pronoun to agree with both subjects, we would need the third-person, plural subjective pronoun **they**.
- Many times, a sentence can be reworded to easily decide which pronoun is correct.
 - Example 1: If the map hadn't been in the car (**we / us**) would have gotten lost.
 - ❖ Remember that the subject does not always have to be at the beginning of a sentence. Think of this sentence as saying “(**We / Us**) would have gotten lost if the map hadn't been in the car.” Now it should be clear that you need the subjective pronoun **we**.
 - Example 2: (**He / Him**) and (**she / her**) went to the mall together yesterday.
 - ❖ When given a sentence with multiple subjects, try using one pronoun at a time to decide whether you need a subjective or objective form.
 - ❖ (**He / Him**) went to the mall. **He** is the appropriate pronoun.
 - ❖ (**She / Her**) went to the mall. **She** is the appropriate pronoun.
 - ❖ Put them together and you get “**He** and **she** went to the mall together yesterday.”

- Pronouns after the words *as* or *than* require more thought
 - Example 1: David is as smart as (**she / her**).
 - ❖ Complete the sentence mentally. “David is as smart as (**she / her**) is.”

Now it is clear that we use **she**.
 - Example 2: Robin walks with her more than (**I / me**).
 - ❖ This sentence can stand for two different ideas, depending on the context.
 - Robin walks with her more than **I** walk with her. Here we need a subjective pronoun.
 - Robin walks with her more than Robin walks with **me**. Here we need an objective pronoun.
- The dreaded **who** and **whom** pronouns are not to be feared! Simply remember that **who** is a subjective pronoun and **whom** is an objective pronoun.
 - Example 1: (**Who / Whom**) is the man behind the attack?
 - ❖ The pronoun **who** is appropriate here. **Who** would be the subject being complimented by the predicate nominative man.
 - Example 2: To (**who / whom**) did you give the money?
 - ❖ Here, we would use **whom**. Think of the sentence as saying “You gave the money to **whom?**”