

The image shows the cover of a spiral-bound notebook. The cover is a light beige or cream color with a subtle, repeating pattern of faint, stylized floral or leaf motifs. The spiral binding is visible on the left side, consisting of a series of metal loops. The text is centered on the cover in a serif font.

The Book of Grammar

Lesson Five

Sophomore Honors English
Mr. McBride

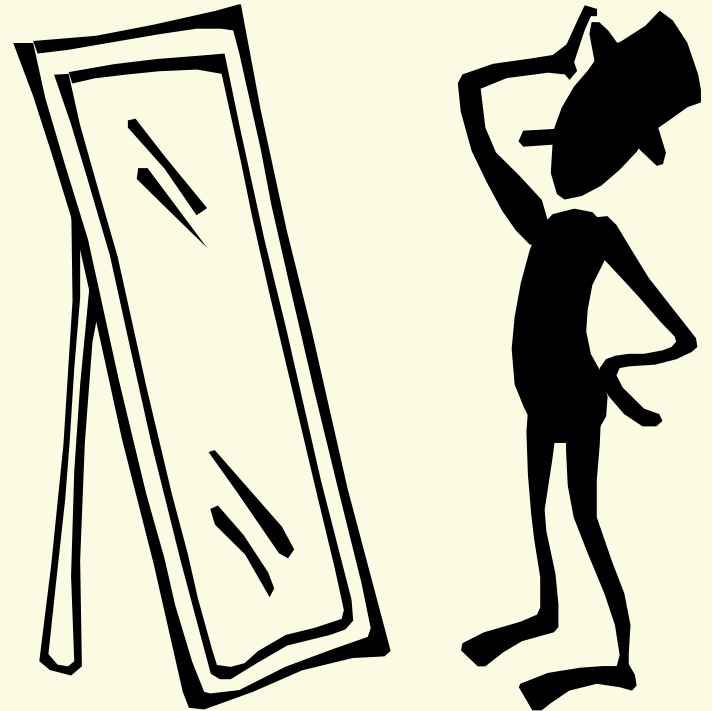
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But don't I already know everything about pronouns?

- When you answer the phone and someone asks to speak to you, do you say "This is me" or "This is he/she"? Why?
- Do I say "As strong as I" or "As strong as me"?
- What's a predicate pronoun?



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What you should know by the end of Lesson Five:

- What a personal pronoun is
- What an *antecedent* is
- The properties of a personal pronoun:
 - Person: 1st, 2nd, 3rd
 - Case: nominative, objective, and possessive
 - Use: subject, predicate pronoun, object

The definition of a pronoun:

A pronoun is a word used in place of a noun.

- A Pronoun is a word used in the place of a noun. Its most common use is as a substitute word employed to prevent the awkward repetition of a noun.
- The noun for which the pronoun is stepping in is called its *antecedent*.

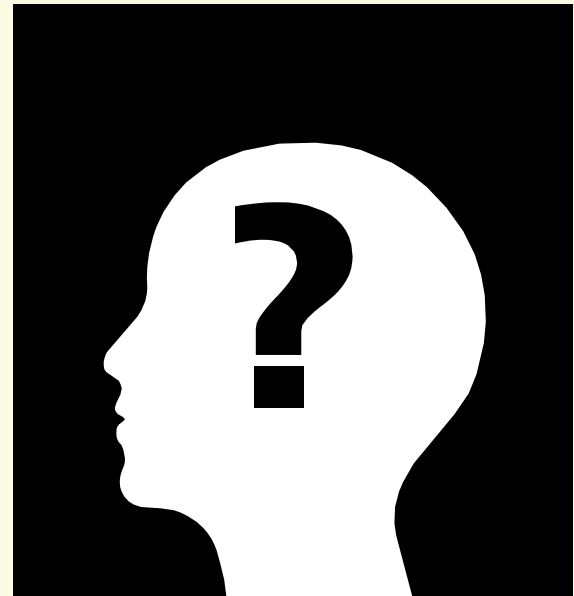
So, for instance...

- Jim decided to go to the store because Jim needed to get a tire for Jim's tricycle.
→ *Becomes....*
- Jim decided to go to the store because he needed to get a tire for his tricycle.
→ *Jim is the antecedent of the pronoun "he."*

The different kinds of pronouns:

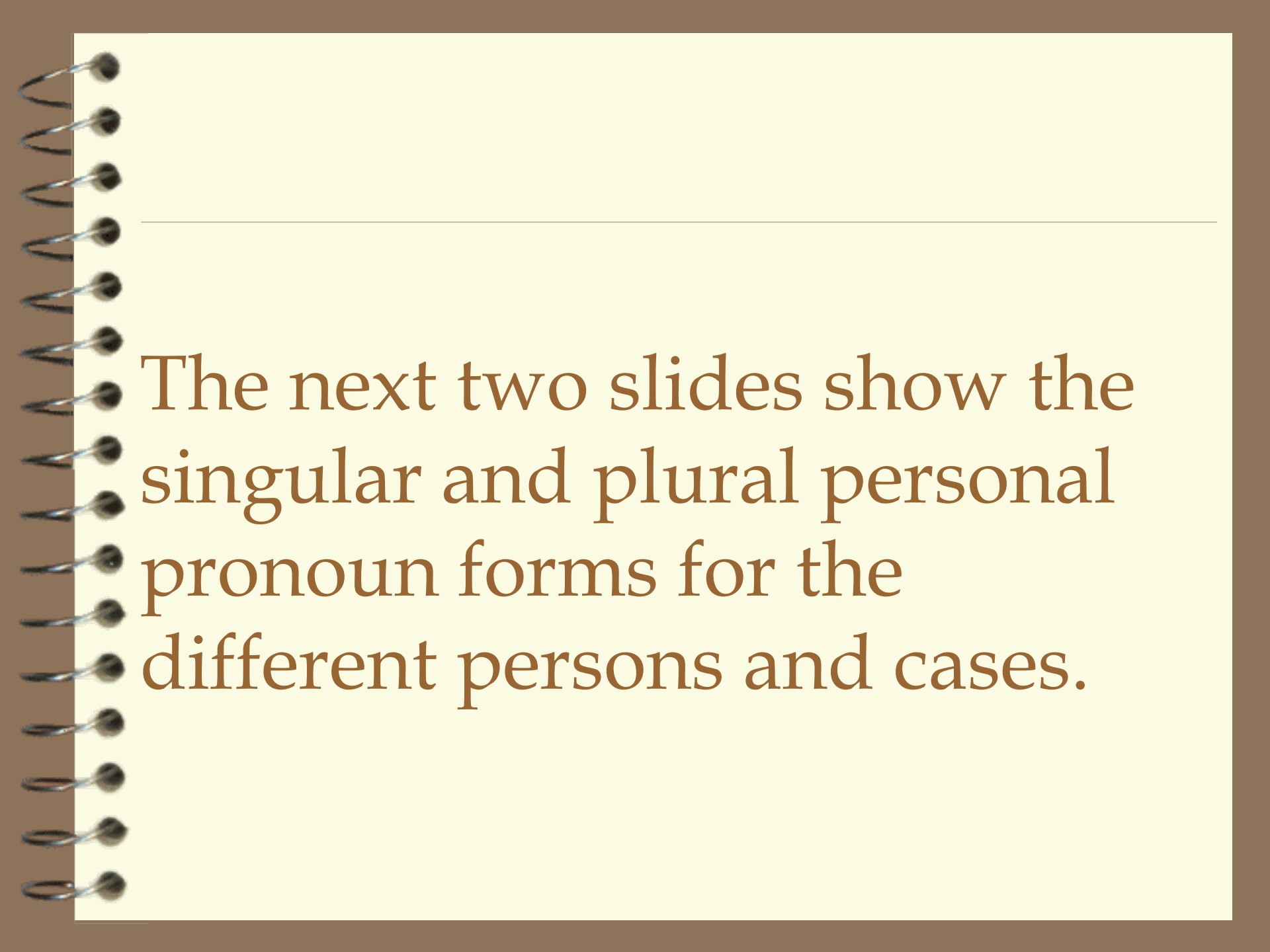
- There are several different kinds of pronouns. Today's lesson covers Personal Pronouns.

- Personal
- Relative
- Interrogative
- Demonstrative
- Indefinite
- Reflexive



Personal Pronouns

- The few pronouns in English that have different forms to show *person* or point of view (first person, second person, third person) are called personal pronouns.
 - Personal pronouns refer to people or things.
 - Personal pronouns change their form to indicate gender and whether the antecedent is singular or plural.
 - Personal pronouns have different forms in the nominative, objective, and possessive cases.

A graphic of a spiral-bound notebook with a light cream-colored page and a dark brown cover. The spiral binding is on the left side. A thin horizontal line is drawn across the page, approximately one-third of the way down. The text is written in a brown, serif font, positioned below the line.

The next two slides show the singular and plural personal pronoun forms for the different persons and cases.

Nominative, Objective, and Possessive Cases for the **Singular** Personal Pronoun:

Nominative
Case

Objective
Case

Possessive
Case

First Person:
I

First Person:
me

First Person:
my, mine

Second Person:
you

Second Person:
you

Second Person:
your, yours

Third Person:
he, she, it

Third Person:
him, her, it

Third Person:
his, her, hers, its

Nominative, Objective, and Possessive Cases for the Plural Personal Pronoun:

Nominative
Case

Objective
Case

Possessive
Case

First Person:
we

First Person:
us

First Person:
our, ours

Second Person:
you

Second Person:
you

Second Person:
your, yours

Third Person:
they

Third Person:
them

Third Person:
their, theirs

Nominative, Objective, or Possessive?

- In the spaces above each column of your chart, please fill in the following:
 - Above the Nominative column, write “subject or predicate pronoun”
 - Above the Objective column, write “Direct Object, Indirect Object, or Object of a Preposition (or DO, IO, or OP)”
 - Above the Possessive column, write “Always an adjective in a sentence”

Five properties of Personal Pronouns...

- The form of a personal pronoun indicates five pieces of information:
 - It indicates what point of view is being used in the sentence: (*I, you, he*)
 - It tells whether the antecedent noun is singular or plural. (*I, we*)
 - It can indicate gender. (*he, she, him, her*)
 - It tells whether the pronoun is a subject or an object in the sentence. (*she/we, her/us*)
 - It can indicate possession. (*mine, yours, his*)

The Nominative Case



- The nominative case form of the pronoun is used when the pronoun is the subject of a sentence or a clause.
- “*He* remembered how to find the subject of a sentence.”
 - *He* is the subject of the sentence, so the nominative form is used.
 - The objective form is *him*; would you ever say, “*Him* remembered”?
 - We would say that *he* is the third person nominative case form of the personal pronoun.

The Predicate Pronoun

- When a pronoun is used to replace a predicate noun, it is called a predicate pronoun. (It is also sometimes called a *predicate nominative*)
- The nominative form of the personal pronoun is used when it is a predicate pronoun.
 - Think back to the definition of a predicate noun: a predicate pronoun is a pronoun in the predicate that refers to the same thing as the subject of the sentence and is connected by a linking verb.

Predicate pronouns continued...

- For example: “That man is he,” Jim shouted at the police line-up.
 - *He*, which refers back to *man* (the subject) is a predicate pronoun. Note that it is in the nominative case in the example.
 - Like a predicate noun, a predicate pronoun always follows a linking verb such as *am, is, are, was, were, be*, etc.

The Objective Case

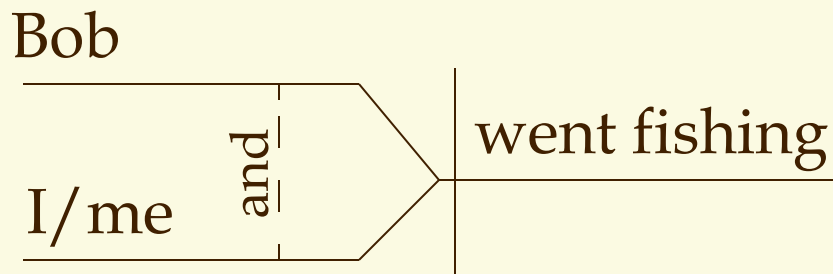
- When a pronoun is an object in a sentence or clause it is said to be in the *objective case*, and the objective form of the pronoun is used.
- The pronoun can be an indirect object, an object of the preposition, or a direct object.
 - “The waitress brought *him* the food.”
Indirect Object
 - “The waitress brought the food to *him*.”
Object of a Preposition
 - “The waitress kicked *him* after he only tipped 13% on the bill.” **Direct Object**

The Possessive Case

- The possessive case form of a pronoun shows possession.
 - “One day the carrot will be *mine*.”
 - *Mine* is in the possessive case.
- Important note: pronouns in the possessive case are always adjectives when used in a sentence.
 - This is because possessive form of a pronoun is always giving more information about a noun, telling whom it belongs to: “It is *my* carrot.”

Examples of personal pronoun problems: Nominative or objective case?

- Which sentence is correct and why?
 - *Bob and me went fishing.*
 - *Bob and I went fishing.*
- The correct answer is “Bob and I went fishing.”
 - *Bob and I* is the subject of the sentence. A pronoun used as a subject requires the nominative case form. *I* is the nominative form of the pronoun.

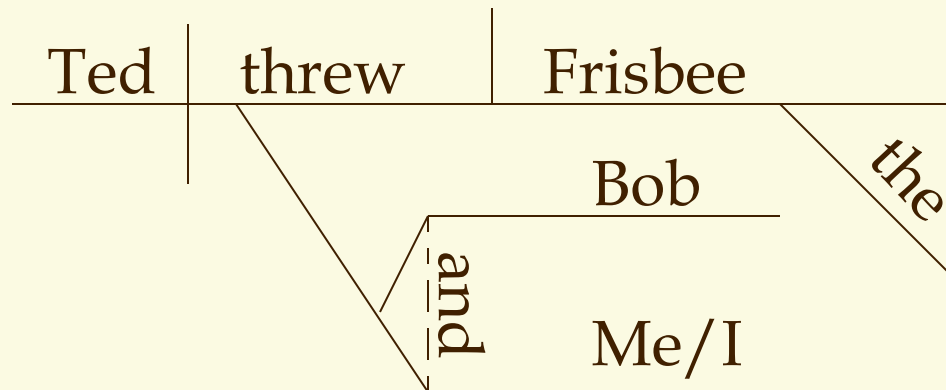


Another example...

- Which sentence is correct and why?

→ *Ted threw Bob and I the Frisbee.*

→ *Ted threw Bob and me the Frisbee.*



The answer is...

- The correct answer is “Ted threw Bob and me the Frisbee.”
 - To whom or for whom was the Frisbee thrown? The pronoun is an indirect object in the sentence, requiring the objective form: *me*.
 - For compound constructions, test each term separately: Would you say “Ted threw *I* the Frisbee”?

Examples of personal pronoun problems: Before an Appositive

- The form of pronouns followed by an appositive is not affected by the appositive:
 - “_____ sophomores have a difficult life.”
We or *Us*?
 - By removing the appositive, *sophomores*, it is easy to see that the correct answer should be *We*.
 - Always remove the appositive to make it easier to determine what form of the pronoun to use.

Another example...

- When the phone rings and you answer it and the person on the other end asks for you, which is the grammatically proper response?

- "This is me."
- "This is he."
- "This is him."



This	is	me/he/him
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The answer is...

- The correct answer is “This is he.”
 - To understand why this is so, you must remember what a predicate pronoun is. *He* is a predicate pronoun because it is a pronoun in the predicate that refers to the same thing as the subject, in this case *this*.
 - A predicate pronoun takes the nominative form of the pronoun, in this example *he*.

Personal Pronouns after *than* or *as*

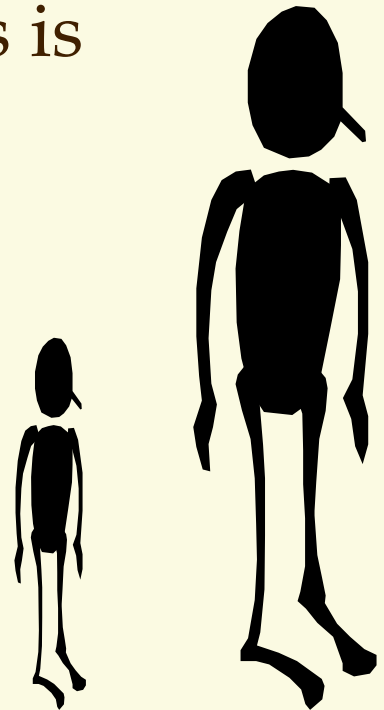
- The case of pronouns after *than* and *as* in comparisons requires special attention. Which of the following examples is correct?

→ *He is as strong as I.*

→ *He is as strong as me.*

→ *She is taller than I.*

→ *She is taller than me.*

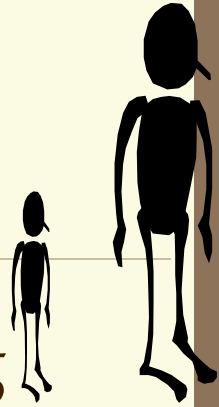


Personal pronouns after *than* or *as* continued...

- The correct answer is...
 - *He is as strong as I (am)*. **Right**
 - *He is as strong as me (am)*. **Wrong**
 - *She is taller than I (am)*. **Right**
 - *She is taller than me (am)*. **Wrong**
- The somewhat complicated explanation of why this is so follows....

Personal pronouns after *than* or *as* continued...

- *Than* and *as* are both conjunctions, joining complete clauses in a sentence. It has become common, however, to drop out the verb in a clause joined by *than* or *as*.
 - I am taller *than* she (is).
- Despite the verb being left out, the pronoun following *than* or *as* is still the subject of the clause, meaning you must use the nominative case form.

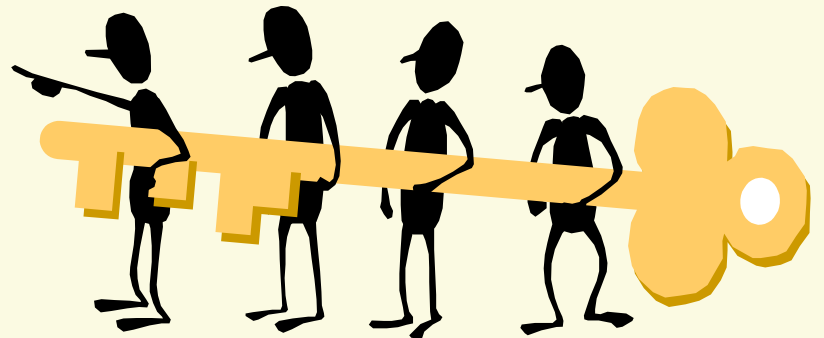


What you should know by the end of this lesson:

- What a personal pronoun is
- What an antecedent is
- The properties of a personal pronoun:
 - Person: 1st, 2nd, 3rd
 - Case: nominative, objective, and possessive
 - Use: subject, predicate pronoun, object
- Pronoun use after *than* or *as*

So do you know the answer to these questions now?

- When you answer the phone and someone asks to speak to you, do you say “It’s me” or “This is he/she”? Why?
- What’s a predicate pronoun?



A spiral-bound notebook with a light beige, textured cover. The spiral binding is on the left side. The text is centered on the page.

The end of Lesson Five

Quiz on Monday, January 14