

Personal Pronouns

What are they? They are words that replace a noun like 'they' and 'we' and 'you' and 'she'.

How do you tell which one to use?

It depends on **four** things:

- Are you looking for a pronoun for a **singular or plural** noun?

Is it one person/thing or two people/things?

- What case it is within the sentence? Subjective, Objective or Possessive?

Basic sentence structure is →	Subject then →	Verb then →	object
Here's an example →	Jack	Eats	sandwiches.

Mostly, if the pronoun **appears before the verb** it is **Subjective case**.

Mostly, if the pronoun **appears after the verb** it is **Objective case**.

If the pronoun is **to indicate ownership of a noun by someone** it is **Possessive case**.

NB Can a noun be subjective and possessive at the same time? Yes but the possessive rule overrides (beats) subjective or objective case.

- Is the **noun** in **first, second or third person**?

First person is the person saying it. 'I' 'me' 'mine' 'we' 'us' 'ours'

Second person is the person being spoken to. 'you' 'yours'

Third person is the person being spoken about. 'he' 'she' 'it' 'him' 'her' 'his' 'hers' 'its' 'they' 'them' 'theirs'

- What gender is the pronoun?

Male, female and neutral only matters when the noun is third person and singular.
If third person singular AND possessive then we ask for the gender of the OWNER of the object.

Male (boy, man) →	'he' 'him' 'his'
Female (girl, woman) →	'she' 'her' 'hers'
Neutral →	'it' 'its'

Let's put this into a table to display the correct pronoun for each situation.

SUBJECTIVE			
		SINGULAR	PLURAL
	FIRST PERSON	<i>I</i>	<i>we</i>
	SECOND PERSON	<i>you</i>	<i>you</i>
	THIRD PERSON	<i>he/she/it</i>	<i>they</i>
OBJECTIVE			
		SINGULAR	PLURAL
	FIRST PERSON	<i>me</i>	<i>us</i>
	SECOND PERSON	<i>you</i>	<i>you</i>
	THIRD PERSON	<i>him/her/it</i>	<i>them</i>
POSSESSIVE			
		SINGULAR	PLURAL
	FIRST PERSON	<i>mine</i>	<i>ours</i>
	SECOND PERSON	<i>yours</i>	<i>yours</i>
	THIRD PERSON	<i>his/hers/its</i>	<i>theirs</i>

Personal Pronoun Examples

Jack eats sandwiches.

Aim: You want to make a personal pronoun for Jack.

1. Is Jack singular or plural?
2. Is Jack in the subjective, objective or possessive case within the sentence?
3. Is the noun in the first, second or third person?
4. If it was third person singular: is Jack male, female or neutral?

Answers

1. Jack is **singular**: there is only one Jack.
2. Jack is **subjective** case: Jack is being used *before* the verb.
3. The noun is **third** person: Jack is not 'I' 'we' or 'you'.
4. Jack is a male.

Therefore the correct pronoun is 'he'. The sentence reads: *He eats sandwiches.*

Lisa eats sandwiches.

Aim: You want to make a personal pronoun for sandwiches.

1. Are sandwiches singular or plural?
2. Are sandwiches in the subjective, objective or possessive case within the sentence?
3. Is the noun in the first, second or third person?
4. If it was third person singular: are sandwiches male, female or neutral?

Answers

1. Sandwiches are **plural**: there are more than one.
2. Sandwiches are **objective** case: sandwiches are being used *after* the verb.
3. The noun is **third** person: Lisa is not 'I' 'we' or 'you'.
4. Not third person singular, gender doesn't matter.

Therefore the correct pronoun is 'them'. The sentence reads: *Lisa eats them.*

Lisa eats her apple.

Aim: You want to make a person pronoun for 'her apple'.

1. Is her apple singular or plural?
2. Is her apple in the subjective, objective or possessive case within the sentence?
3. Is the noun in the first, second or third person?
4. If it was third person singular AND POSSESSIVE: is the owner of 'her apple' male, female or neutral?

Answers

1. Her apple is **singular**: there is only one apple.
2. Her apple is **possessive**: 'her' indicates ownership by Lisa.
3. The noun is **third** person: her apple is not 'I' 'we' or 'you'.
4. Third person singular and possessive, gender matters: the owner of the apple is female.

Therefore the correct pronoun is 'hers'. The sentence reads: *Lisa eats hers.*