

LESSON 12

Subject and Object Pronouns

Personal pronouns are sometimes used as the subjects of sentences. Personal pronouns are also used as the objects of verbs or prepositions.

A **subject pronoun** is used as the subject of a sentence. An **object pronoun** is used as the object of a verb or a preposition.

EXAMPLES

- subject pronoun** Henry Ford founded Ford Motors in 1903. **He** is one of the best-known industrialists in the world. (subject of sentence)
- object pronoun** People needed goods, and factories produced **them**. (direct object of the verb *produced*)
- object pronoun** Ford amazed workers when he offered **them** the unheard of wage of \$5 a day, more than double the regular rate. (indirect object of the verb *offered*)
- object pronoun** Sarah is interested in the industrialist and would like to read a book about **him**. (object of the preposition *about*)

Personal Pronouns		
	Singular	Plural
Used as subjects	I you he, she, it	we you they
Used as objects	me you him, her, it	us you them

Subject and object pronouns are also used in compound subjects and compound objects.

EXAMPLES

Benito and Rosa visited relatives in Mexico.
He and **she** visited relatives in Mexico. (*He* and *she* form the compound subject.)

Many of the sights seemed familiar to Rosa and Benito.
 Many of the sights seemed familiar to **her** and **him**. (*Her* and *him* form the compound object.)

Use the subject pronoun *I* and the object pronoun *me* last when they are part of a compound subject or object.

EXAMPLES

compound subject

- incorrect I and Tim promised to collect educational toys for the library.
correct **Tim and I** promised to collect educational toys for the library.

compound object

- incorrect Mrs. Bradstreet told me and Anita that we played well in the concert.
correct Mrs. Bradstreet told **Anita and me** that we played well in the concert.

EXERCISE 1

Identifying Subject and Object Pronouns in Literature

Identify each of the underlined words as either a subject pronoun or an object pronoun. Write your answers on the corresponding lines below.

Shirnette brought a cockroach to school in a shoe-polish tin. At playtime ¹she opened the tin and let the cockroach fly into my blouse. Pure panic and disgust nearly killed ²me. ³I crushed up the cockroach in my clothes and practically ripped my blouse off, there in open sunlight. Oh, the smell of a cockroach is the nastiest ever to block your nose! ⁴I started running with my blouse to go and wash ⁵it. Twice ⁶I had to stop and be sick.

*from "Becky and the Wheels-and-Brake Boys," page 171
James Berry*

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| 1. _____ | 4. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 5. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 6. _____ |

EXERCISE 2

Understanding Subject and Object Pronouns

Choose the correct subject or object pronoun in parentheses to complete each sentence. Then identify each pronoun as either a subject or object pronoun.

- My family and (I, me) went to stay on a farm over Thanksgiving vacation.

- (We, Us) city dwellers learned that food doesn't start out wrapped in plastic.

3. Farmers raise dairy cattle and sell milk from (they, them).

4. This would be a completely different experience for my sister Brenda and (I, me).

5. If we could get up early enough, Brenda and (I, me) could help feed the smaller barnyard animals.

6. Getting up early with the roosters was a little difficult for (her and me, she and I).

7. The other animals, the goat and ducks, wanted us to feed (they, them) too.

8. The geese crowded around us, making sure we didn't forget (they, them) were also hungry.

9. The pigs were pink and clean and bigger than we expected (they, them) would be.

10. Brenda and (I, me) were glad there were so many friendly animals on the farm.

EXERCISE 3

Using Subject and Object Pronouns in Your Writing

Choose from a magazine an action photograph, such as a family making dinner or a group of people skiing. Write a detailed description of what you see. Use subject and object pronouns where they are appropriate.
