

1 Here's the Idea

▶ **Personal pronouns take on different forms, depending on how they are used in sentences. These forms are called cases.**

There are three pronoun cases: nominative, objective, and possessive. This chart shows the personal pronouns (singular and plural) used in each case.

Personal Pronouns			
	Nominative	Objective	Possessive
Singular			
<i>First person</i>	I	me	my, mine
<i>Second person</i>	you	you	your, yours
<i>Third person</i>	he, she, it	him, her, it	his, her, hers, its
Plural			
<i>First person</i>	we	us	our, ours
<i>Second person</i>	you	you	your, yours
<i>Third person</i>	they	them	their, theirs

Nominative Case

▶ **The nominative case of a personal pronoun is used when the pronoun functions as a subject or a predicate nominative.**

I went on the trip.

SUBJECT

They came along, too.

SUBJECT

The nominative case is also used when the pronoun is part of a compound subject.

Carlos and he planned the trip.

COMPOUND SUBJECT

When a pronoun functions as a predicate nominative, it is called a **predicate pronoun**. It immediately follows a linking verb and identifies the subject of the sentence.

It was **she** who led the expedition.

SUBJECT PREDICATE PRONOUN
LINKING VERB

In informal speech or writing, it can be acceptable to use the wrong case for a predicate pronoun: **It's me**. However, be sure to use the nominative case for predicate pronouns in formal writing: **It's I**.


Objective Case

▶ The objective case of a personal pronoun is used when the pronoun functions as a direct object, an indirect object, or the object of a preposition.

The group found **me** after a day-long search.

 DIRECT OBJECT OF A VERB

The mysterious stranger gave **us** the treasure map.

 INDIRECT OBJECT OF A VERB

Midori climbed the mountain with **them**.

OBJECT OF A PREPOSITION

The objective case is also used when a pronoun is part of a compound object.

Suddenly the earth opened up between **Josh and me**.

 COMPOUND OBJECT OF A PREPOSITION

To make sure you're using the correct pronoun case in a compound construction, look at each part separately.

Here's How Choosing the Correct Pronoun Case

Ben and **(I, me)** explored the outback.

Erin went with Ben and **(I, me)**.

1. Try each pronoun choice alone in the sentence.

I explored the outback. **Me** explored the outback.
(nominative case correct)

Erin went with **I**. Erin went with **me**.
(objective case correct)

2. Choose the correct case for the sentence.

Ben and **I** explored the outback.

Erin went with Ben and **me**.