Is It *I* or *Me*?

**CASE FORMS OF PERSONAL PRONOUNS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Subjective</th>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>Possessive</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Singular</td>
<td>I, you, he, she, it</td>
<td>me, you him, her, it</td>
<td>mine, yours, his, hers, its</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plural</td>
<td>we, you, they</td>
<td>us, you, them</td>
<td>ours, yours, their</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

What’s the difference between a subjective pronoun and an objective pronoun?

- **Subjective pronouns** are the pronouns you use when the pronoun is standing in for the subject, or the person or thing doing the action, of the sentence.
  - "I am going to the store."
  - "She is teaching the class."
- **Objective pronouns** are the pronouns you use when the pronoun is standing in for the object, or the person or thing receiving the action, in the sentence.
  - "Paul gave the books to me."
  - "Tim served the food to her."

Choosing subjective or objective happens naturally most of the time. When you pair the pronoun with another pronoun or a proper name, however, it gets a bit trickier:

- "**Sam and I** are going to the store”
- "Paul gave the books to **me and Sam**.”

**TROYKA TEST FOR CASE**

If you are not sure which pronoun to use, try the following test:

**Step 1:** Write the sentence twice, once using the subjective case, and once using the objective case.

*S*: Sam and I went to the movies.

*O*: Sam and me went to the movies.

**Step 2:** Identify and isolate the elements you are questioning.

*S*: Sam and I went to the movies.

*O*: Sam and me went to the movies.

**Step 3:** Omit the crossed-out words and read each sentence aloud to determine which one sounds right.

*S*: I went to the movies. [This sounds correct.]

*O*: me went to the movies. [This sounds odd.]

**Step 4:** Select the correct version and restore the words you crossed out.

*S*: Sam and I went to the movies.

Check the back for two more examples of how to use the Troyka Test for Case.
**Subjective Case Example:**
(He/Him) and Janet learned about the moon.

**Step 1:** Write out the sentence both ways:
   - Subjective: He and Janet learned about the moon.
   - Objective: Him and Janet learned about the moon.

**Step 2:** Cross out what you don’t need to figure out which pronoun to use:
   - He and Janet (learned about the moon).
   - Him and Janet (learned about the moon).

**Step 3:** Write the sentences without the words you crossed out in step 2, and read the sentences out loud:
   - He learned about the moon. [This sounds right, so the subjective case is correct.]
   - Him learned about the moon. [This doesn’t sound right.]

**Step 4:** Add the crossed-out words back into the correct sentence:
   - He and Janet learned about the moon.

**Objective Case Example:**
The astronomer taught Janet and (I/me) about the moon.

**Step 1:** Write out the sentence both ways:
   - Subjective: The astronomer taught Janet and I about the moon.
   - Objective: The astronomer taught Janet and me about the moon.

**Step 2:** Cross out what you don’t need to figure out which pronoun to use:
   - (The astronomer taught) Janet and I (about the moon).
   - (The astronomer taught) Janet and me (about the moon).

**Step 3:** Write the sentences without the words you crossed out in step 2, and read the sentences out loud:
   - The astronomer taught I about the moon. [This doesn’t sound right.]
   - The astronomer taught me about the moon. [This sounds right, so the objective case is correct.]

**Step 4:** Add the crossed-out words back into the correct sentence:
   - The astronomer taught Janet and me about the moon.