

Is It *I* or *Me*?

CASE FORMS OF PERSONAL PRONOUNS

	Subjective	Objective	Possessive
Singular	I, you, he, she, it	me, you, him, her, it	mine, yours, his, hers, its
Plural	we, you, they	us, you, them	ours, yours, their

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.