

Grade 6 Playlist: Pronoun Cases

Aligns with *CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.6.1.A*:

- Ensure that pronouns are in the proper case (subjective, objective, possessive).

Welcome

“Her told he that us are going to the movies tonight.” What’s wrong with this sentence? The pronouns are not in the correct case. “She told him that we are going to the movies tonight.” This version makes more sense because the pronouns *she*, *him*, and *we* are in the correct case. What is a pronoun’s case, and when should each case be used? Knowing the answers to these questions allows writers to ensure that pronouns are in the proper case and that the sentences they craft are clear and correct.

Objective

In this playlist, students will learn and practice how to:

- ensure that pronouns are in the proper case.

Review

Key Terms

- A **pronoun** is a word that takes the place of a noun or another pronoun.
- An **antecedent** is a word or phrase to which a pronoun refers.

Pronouns can be classified by **number** and **person**:

- Number:
 - A **singular pronoun** refers to only one thing.
 - A **plural pronoun** refers to more than one thing.
- Person:
 - A **first-person pronoun** refers to the speaker or writer of a sentence.
 - A **second-person pronoun** refers to the person or people being addressed.
 - A **third-person pronoun** refers to people or things that are not speaking, writing, or being addressed.



Exploring the Standard

A pronoun's **case** determines the pronoun's relationship to other words in a sentence. It shows how the pronoun functions in the sentence.

There are three cases of pronoun:

- A **subjective pronoun** replaces the subject of a verb. Subjective pronouns are sometimes called nominative pronouns. (*Nominative* comes from the Latin word for *name*.)
- An **objective pronoun** replaces the object of a verb or preposition.
- A **possessive pronoun** identifies the owner or possessor of something.

This chart lists the personal pronouns for each case:

	Subjective Case		Objective Case		Possessive Case	
	Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural
1st Person	I	we	me	us	mine	ours
2nd Person	you	you	you	you	yours	yours
3rd Person	he she it	they	him her it	them	his hers its	theirs

Read these example sentences:

1. Robert asked **you** to help **him** study.

- The pronoun **you** is the object of the verb *asked*. Note that **you** is also the subjective form of the second-person pronoun, and that **you** may be singular or plural.
- The pronoun **him** is the object of the verb *asked*. The singular form of the third-person pronoun is correct because its antecedent, *Robert*, refers to one person who is neither speaking nor being addressed.

2. When **we** first noticed **them**, the ants were in the fruit.

- The pronoun **we** is the subject of the verb *noticed*. The plural form of the first-person pronoun indicates that more than one person, including the speaker, noticed the ants.
- The pronoun **them** is the object of the verb *noticed*. The plural form of the third-person pronoun is correct because its antecedent, *the ants*, refers to more than one thing that is neither speaking nor being addressed.



Teaching Notes: Pronoun Cases

The goal of L.6.1.A is for students to be able to put pronouns in the proper case. The following information contains ideas that teachers can incorporate into their classrooms as well as additional resources to peruse and integrate into instruction as appropriate.

Activities

1. To check students' understanding of case, give them a grade-appropriate paragraph to read that has a mix of subjective, objective, and possessive pronouns. Ask students to circle all the pronouns and label them with O, S, or P to identify the case. Then have a student volunteer read the paragraph aloud. Each time the student reads a pronoun, the rest of the class should hold up fingers to show what type of pronoun it is. (For example, 1 finger = subjective, 2 fingers = objective, 3 fingers = possessive.) Pause to discuss any pronouns that cause confusion.
2. Pick another paragraph that has a mix of subjective, objective, and possessive pronouns. Rewrite that paragraph to include pronouns in the wrong case. Direct students to correct the paragraph.

Additional Resources

Consider these additional resources when teaching L.6.1.A:

“Teach Objective Case Pronouns”: This video provides teaching tips about pronoun cases.

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kz5kiUcNQUM>

“How and When to Teach Pronouns”: This resource provides one instructional approach to teaching pronouns.

- http://penningtonpublishing.com/blog/grammar_mechanics/how-and-when-to-teach-pronouns/

