

Name: _____

Choosing the Right Pronoun With Ninjas...

Reading Level 2

Directions: Choose the answer that best completes the sentence. Circle your response.



- The old woman handed the water-walking shoes and the blowgun to _____.
 - Kiko and I
 - me and Kiko
 - Kiko and myself
 - my and Kiko
- A ninja's life may seem fun, but _____ ninjas must train constantly to hone our razor-sharp skills.
 - we
 - us
 - me
 - them
- _____ disguised ourselves as farmers and used our tools to dispatch our target.
 - Kiko and I
 - Me and Kiko
 - Kiko and my
 - Kiko and myself
- Master Kung has been teaching _____ the shadow palm attack so that we will have a fighting chance against armored knights.
 - Kiko and I
 - mine and Kiko
 - me and Kiko
 - myself and Kiko
- As he walked through the forest alone, Master Kung drew a sword from his cane and cleared a circle of bamboo thickets around _____.
 - he
 - him
 - hisself
 - himself
- _____ once had a friendly rivalry, but it became a blood feud at the Festival of Cranes.
 - The Lotus Clan and us
 - The Lotus Clan and ourself
 - The Lotus Clan and we
 - The Lotus clan and ourselves

CHAPTER 2

1. Describe Scout's teacher, Miss Caroline Fisher. What is irrational about her teaching methods?
2. How did Scout learn to read and write?
3. Describe the Cunningham clan.
4. When Scout asks her father if they are as poor as the Cunninghams, how does he respond? Through Atticus's, what does the reader learn about the Great Depression and how it affected different classes of people in different ways?
5. Why does Miss Caroline punish Scout?

CHAPTER 4

1. What does Scout find in one of the trees at the edge of the Radley lot? Several days later, she and Jem find something else in the tree. What do they find? What do they decide to do with these items?
2. In the paragraph beginning, "Summer was on the way..." Scout describes summer by comparing it to a series of other things that remind her of the season. What literary term best fits her description?

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3. Aside from Radley place, what other house do the kids avoid, and why?
4. Belief in various superstitions has emerged as a motif in the novel. What is a "Hot Steam"?
5. What game do the children make up in this chapter?
6. Summarize the tire incident. Who do you suppose was inside the Radley house, and what did Scout hear?

11.1 Personal Pronouns

- A **pronoun** is a word that takes the place of one or more nouns and the words that describe those nouns.

The most frequently used pronouns are called personal pronouns. The words *she* and *it* in the sentence below are personal pronouns.

Dana has a favorite folktale, and **she** tells **it** often.

- Pronouns that are used to refer to people or things are called **personal pronouns**.

Personal pronouns perform different functions in sentences. Some personal pronouns are used as the simple subject. Others are used as the direct or indirect object of a verb. In the example above, the pronoun *she* replaces the noun *Dana*, which is used as the subject. The pronoun *it* replaces the noun *folktale* and is the direct object.

- A **subject pronoun** is a personal pronoun in the nominative case. It is used as a subject.
- An **object pronoun** is a personal pronoun in the objective case. It is used as the direct or indirect object of a verb.

I will read that fable. [subject pronoun]

Jesse told **me** about the story. [object pronoun]

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

Exercise 1 Identifying Personal Pronouns

Write each pronoun and label it *subject* or *object*.

1. I read "The Bundle of Sticks," a fable by Aesop.
2. It taught me the value of cooperation.
3. A man had four sons, and they always fought.
4. They started an argument in the morning and continued it all day.
5. He became impatient and scolded them.
6. They ignored him and continued to argue.
7. He decided to teach the sons a lesson.
8. They needed it.
9. The father was sure this plan would help them.
10. Now I will tell you the end of the fable.

Exercise 2 Using Pronouns in Nominative and Objective Cases

Write a personal pronoun to replace the underlined words.

1. The father asked the sons for a bundle of sticks.
2. The father tied the bundle up with string.
3. The father gave the bundle to the sons.
4. The father said, "Break the bundle."
5. The boys tried, but the boys were too weak to break the bundle.
6. Then the father untied the bundle.
7. The brothers easily broke the sticks one by one.
8. United, the brothers were strong.
9. The father said, "This lesson has taught my sons."
10. The sons also realized the importance of cooperation.

Exercise 3 Using Pronouns in Nominative and Objective Cases

For each numbered item, write the correct pronoun in parentheses.

¹George and Maria love stories. (They, Them) especially like fables. ²Maria wanted to go to the library with George. Could (he, him) go after school?

³"We can borrow some books of stories by Aesop," (she, her) said.

⁴George said, "Our friends may have checked (they, them) out already.

⁵(We, Us) should go to the used bookstore."

11.2

Using Pronouns Correctly

People sometimes confuse pronouns in the nominative and objective cases. They write or say *me* when they should use *I*. They use *we* when they should use *us*. Remember to use a subject pronoun as the subject. Use an object pronoun as the object of a verb.

She owns a collection of fables. [subject]

He told **her** an amusing fable. [indirect object]

The fable entertained **us**. [direct object]

Be sure to use a subject pronoun in a compound subject and an object pronoun in a compound object.

Richard and **I** recited the fable. [not *Richard and me*]

Jennifer helped Richard and **me**. [not *Richard and I*]

In the first sentence above, *Richard and I* is the compound subject. In the second sentence, *Richard and me* is the compound object of the verb *helped*.

If you're having trouble deciding which form of the pronoun to use in a compound subject or compound object, try saying the sentence without the noun. *Me recited the fable* does not sound correct. *I recited the fable* sounds—and is—correct.

Whenever the pronoun *I* or *me* is joined with a noun or another pronoun to form a compound subject or object, *I* or *me* should come last.

Jennifer and **I** enjoy folktales. [not *I and Jennifer*]

In formal writing and speaking, always use a subject pronoun—not an object pronoun—after a linking verb. If the sentence sounds awkward, rearrange the words.

The winner is **she**. [not *The winner is her*]

She is the winner.

Richard and I visited a storyteller.



She told Richard and **me** a fascinating story.

Exercise 4 Using Pronouns in Nominative and Objective Cases

Read the following dialogue between the North Wind and the Sun.
Write the correct pronoun for each item.

1. North Wind: (I, me) am the strongest power.
2. Sun: How will you show (I, me)?
3. North Wind: You and (I, me) will have a contest.
4. Sun: A traveler is approaching (we, us).
5. North Wind: I see his dog and (he, him).
6. Sun: You or (I, me) must steal his cloak from him.
7. North Wind: The winner will be you or (I, me).
8. Sun: No, (I, me) cannot lose this contest.
9. North Wind: Watch (I, me) closely as I blow the cloak from the traveler.
10. Sun: I will watch (him, he), but I know you will fail.

Exercise 5 Using Pronoun Cases Correctly

Write a personal pronoun to replace each underlined group of words. Label each pronoun *subject* or *object*.

1. The North Wind blew fiercely. (He, Him)
2. The traveler resisted the North Wind. (he, him)
3. The North Wind watched the Sun work. (she, her)
4. The man felt the rays of the Sun on his back. (they, them)
5. Before long the man was glad to remove the cloak. (he, him)
6. "Now North Wind and the Sun know who's more powerful," said the Sun.
(you and I, you and me)
7. The North Wind could not overpower the Sun. (He, Him)
8. However, the Sun and North Wind realized that they both had powers.
(she and he, her and him)
9. "This world needs both North Wind and the Sun," said the Sun.
(you and me, you and I)
10. From that point on, the world respected the Sun and North Wind equally.
(they, them)

Exercise 6 Writing with Personal Pronouns

Write five sentences. Use at least one of these pronouns in each sentence: *I, she, he, we, they, me, her, him, us, them*. Use both subject and object pronouns.

11.3

Pronouns and Antecedents

- The noun or a group of words that a pronoun refers to is called its **antecedent**.

Albert read "Sleeping Beauty." **He** found **it** exciting.

Here, the noun *Albert* is the antecedent of the pronoun *He*.
"Sleeping Beauty" is the antecedent of the pronoun *it*.

The pronoun must agree with its antecedent in **number** (singular or plural) and **gender**. The gender of a noun may be masculine (male), feminine (female), or neuter (referring to things).

The king and queen were proud of the baby girl, and **they** loved **her** dearly.

In the sentence above, the pronoun *they* agrees with its antecedent, *The king and queen*. The pronoun *her* agrees with its antecedent, *the baby girl*.

The antecedent of a pronoun should be clear.

The parents showed the baby to friends. **They** admired **her**.

In the second sentence above, does the pronoun *they* refer to *parents* or *friends*? If the antecedent is not clear, it is best to avoid using a pronoun altogether.

The friends admired the baby.

Be especially careful when you use the pronoun *they*.

They have many books of folktales at the library. [unclear]

The library has many books of folktales. [clear]

Exercise 7 Identifying Antecedents

The sentences below are about "The White Bear," a Russian folktale. Write the antecedent of each underlined pronoun.

1. A man lived in the forest. He was very poor.
2. He had many children. He could not feed them.
3. One night the wind blew hard. It shook the walls.
4. The house stood firm. It was well built.
5. The children heard a noise outside. They were afraid.
6. A white bear appeared. The man approached it.
7. The bear asked the man, "Will you give me your youngest daughter?"
8. This was a strange request. The man had never heard anything like it.
9. His daughter was dear to the man. What could he tell her?
10. The man listened to the bear. He wanted to learn what it would offer.

Exercise 8 Using Personal Pronouns

Write the correct pronoun to complete each sentence below. Then write and circle its antecedent.

1. The bear made a promise. _____ promised the family great wealth.
2. The man spoke with his children. He told _____ about the bear's request.
3. The youngest daughter became worried. The bear's request frightened _____.
4. The girl listened to her family. They said, "If _____ go, the bear promises _____ will be rich."
5. Finally the girl told her father and her brothers and sisters, "_____ will go because I love _____."

Exercise 9 Writing with Personal Pronouns

Read each sentence. Rewrite the sentence, replacing the underlined antecedent with a personal pronoun.

1. Many stories have a wolf as a main character.
2. In one story, three pigs outsmart a wolf.
3. Little Red Riding Hood meets a wolf in another story.
4. Instead of a wolf, Goldilocks meets three bears.
5. Goldilocks ate the porridge before the bears returned.

11.4

Possessive Pronouns

Some personal pronouns indicate ownership or possession. These pronouns are called possessive pronouns, and they replace the possessive forms of nouns.

- A possessive pronoun is a pronoun in the possessive case. It shows who or what has something.

Some possessive pronouns are used before nouns. They replace the name of the person or thing that has something.

Aesop's fables are famous. **His** fables are famous.

A fable is a brief tale. **Its** characters are often animals.

Other possessive pronouns stand alone in a sentence.

This book is **yours**.

Aesop's Fables is a favorite of **mine**.

The chart below shows the singular and plural forms of the two different kinds of possessive pronouns.

Possessive Pronouns		
	Singular	Plural
Used Before Nouns	my your her, his, its	our your their
Used Alone	mine yours hers, his, its	ours yours theirs

Possessive pronouns do not contain an apostrophe. Do not confuse the possessive pronoun *its* with the word *it's*. *It's* is a contraction, or shortened form, of the words *it is*: *It's a humorous tale*.

Exercise 10 Identifying Kinds of Possessive Pronouns

The sentences below are about a fable. List each possessive pronoun and write whether it *stands alone* or is used *before a noun*.

1. A miller, his son, and a mule walked to market.
2. "Ride on its back," a stranger suggested.
3. The boy got on, and his father walked.
4. A man they knew saw them and said, "You will spoil that son of yours."
5. The man said, "Will you follow a stranger's advice or mine?"

Exercise 11 Using Pronouns in the Possessive Case

Write a possessive pronoun to replace each underlined word or phrase.

1. The miller talked to a friend and followed the friend's advice.
2. The boy walked beside the mule; the man rode on the mule's back.
3. Next a woman gave the woman's opinion, and they followed that advice and rode together.
4. The man and the boy's weight was too great.
5. The mule collapsed, and the man and boy worried about the mule's health.
6. They carried the mule on the man's and the boy's shoulders.
7. The man's shoulders were tired. He asked the boy, "How do your shoulders feel?"
8. "My shoulders are tired as well," the boy answered.
9. The man saw that only fools think other people's opinions are better than the fools' own.
10. If the miller had followed the miller's own instincts, the mule would not have collapsed.

Exercise 12 Writing Sentences with Possessive Pronouns

Write a pair of sentences using each phrase. In one sentence of each pair, replace part of the phrase with a possessive pronoun.

SAMPLE the boy's bike

ANSWER The boy's bike was new. His bike was new.

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 1. the woman's idea | 4. a girl's opinion |
| 2. the friends' words | 5. people's thoughts |
| 3. the mule's back | |

11.5

Indefinite Pronouns

■ An **indefinite pronoun** does not refer to a particular person, place, thing, or idea.

Like possessive pronouns, indefinite pronouns can be used alone or with nouns.

Has **any student** read this Native American folktale?

Have **any** read "The Voice of the River"?

When used alone, indefinite pronouns may be singular or plural.

INDEFINITE PRONOUNS

ALWAYS SINGULAR			ALWAYS PLURAL
another	everybody	no one	both
anybody	everyone	nothing	few
anyone	everything	one	many
anything	much	somebody	others
each	neither	someone	several
either	nobody	something	

When an indefinite pronoun is used as the subject of a sentence, the indefinite pronoun may be singular or plural, depending on the noun that follows. Indefinite pronouns that change their number include *all*, *any*, *most*, *none*, and *some*.

Some of the people **are** familiar with this folktale. [plural]

Most of this tale **takes** place in Africa. [singular]

Most of the characters **are** animals. [plural]

Possessive pronouns often have indefinite pronouns as their antecedents. In such cases, the pronouns must agree in number.

Many are happy to share **their** folktales. [plural]

Each must be willing to wait **his** or **her** turn. [singular]

Exercise 13 Using Indefinite Pronouns

For each sentence, write the correct singular or plural indefinite pronoun in parentheses.

1. (Everyone, Many) likes to read an exciting myth.
2. (Each, Many) are originally from Greece.
3. (One, Others) from Greece is about a father and son.
4. (Anyone, Few) were able to guess the myth's ending.
5. (All, Anybody) enjoy the myth of Daedalus and Icarus.
6. (Both, One) of the mythical characters live on the island of Crete.
7. Daedalus has artistic talents; (none, nobody) can deny that.
8. (Few, Somebody) match Daedalus's skill in design.
9. (Some, Each) of these students model their work on his art.
10. (Each, Both) of the characters is interesting.

Exercise 14 Using Indefinite Pronouns

Write the word or words in parentheses that correctly complete each sentence.

1. Most of the people (praises, praise) Daedalus's ideas for the huge palace.
2. Few know (his, their) craft as well as Daedalus.
3. No one (is, are) more pleased than King Minos.
4. Although many try, no one (escapes, escape) the king's maze.
5. Everything (changes, change) when Daedalus tells the secret.
6. At last someone finds (his or her, their) way out.
7. Some of the readers (knows, know) the rest of the story: the king forbids Daedalus to leave.
8. Something (takes, take) shape in Daedalus's skilled hands—wax wings for himself and Icarus.
9. Both (plans, plan) an escape across the sea.
10. Each puts on (his, their) pair of waxy wings.
11. At first everything (goes, go) well for the pair.
12. Several (sees, see) them flying in the sky.
13. One (flies, fly) too close to the sun; the wax melts, and he plunges to his death.
14. Which one (lands, land) safely in Sicily?
15. When someone tries to do the impossible, disaster can strike (him or her, them.)