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Pronouns, Cases, and Antecedent Agreement

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Pronouns are words that replace nouns or noun phrases. The antecedent is the word or phrase that the pronoun replaces. Pronouns must agree with their antecedents in number (singular or plural), person, and case.

Pronoun–Antecedent Number Agreement

A pronoun must match its antecedent in number.

- **Example 1:** Leo likes to go to the playground because **it** is fun.
 - **Explanation:** **It** replaces **playground**, which is singular, so the pronoun is singular.
- **Example 2:** Jack and Jerry like **their** new coats.
 - **Explanation:** **Their** replaces **Jack** and **Jerry**, a plural antecedent, so the pronoun is plural.

Personal Pronouns

- **First Person:** refers to the writer
 - **Examples:** I, me, my, we, us, our
- **Second Person:** refers to the reader
 - **Examples:** you, your, yours
- **Third Person:** refers to other people or things
 - **Examples:** he, she, it, they, them, their, etc.

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Relative Pronouns

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Relative pronouns introduce clauses that describe (or “relate to”) a noun or antecedent.

Relative Pronouns for People

- who – subjective
 - **Example:** The teacher who assigned the homework is absent today.
- whom – objective
 - **Example:** The student whom I helped yesterday passed the test.

Relative Pronouns for Things

- which – subjective or objective
 - **Example:** The book which you lent me is excellent.

Relative Pronouns for People or Things

- that – subjective or objective
 - **Example:** The car that I bought last week is already having issues.
- whose – possessive
 - **Example:** I met the artist whose work is displayed in the gallery.

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Cases

Pronoun Case

Case refers to the form a pronoun takes based on its function in the sentence.

Subjective (Nominative) Case

- Used when the pronoun functions as the subject.
 - **Example:** He is the reason that I know how to ice skate.

Possessive Case

- Shows ownership.
 - Example: His dog is quite adorable when it wags its tail.

Objective Case

- Used when the pronoun functions as the object of a verb or preposition.
 - Example: Mom brought Jack and me to the baseball game.



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Reference

Aaron, J. E. (2014). *LB brief* (5th ed.). Pearson.