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Quick and Handy Grammar Review: Subject, Object, and Relative Pronouns

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Insert the correct relative pronoun in the blanks.

Answer Key
Quick and Handy Grammar Review: Subject, Object, and Relative Pronouns

Pronouns are short words that stand in for nouns. Pronouns refer to nouns that have already been mentioned. They have many uses. The following is a list of types of pronouns:

1. Subject pronouns
2. Object pronouns
3. Relative pronouns
4. Possessive pronouns
5. Reflexive pronouns
6. Demonstrative pronouns
7. Indefinite pronouns

We will analyze the first three types in this unit and the last four in the next one.

Subject Pronouns:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First person singular</th>
<th>I</th>
<th>First person plural</th>
<th>we</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Second person singular</td>
<td>you</td>
<td>Second person plural</td>
<td>you</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third person singular</td>
<td>he</td>
<td>Third person plural</td>
<td>they</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>she</td>
<td></td>
<td>they</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>it</td>
<td></td>
<td>they</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notes:

- I is the only pronoun that is always capitalized. The other pronouns are capitalized only when they are the first word in the sentence.
- When I is combined with another subject, I goes second (example: Maria and I are good friends).
- Although it is sometimes used in spoken English slang, me is incorrect as a subject form. For example, Hank and me went to the game is a mistake.
- In English, there is no second person plural form. You is used for both singular and plural.
- Unlike many other languages, there is no distinction in address in English; that is, there are no familiar and formal forms for the word you. You is used when speaking to an animal or the president of a company, for one person or twenty people.
- The distinction between masculine, feminine, and neuter forms (he, she, and it) in the present is lost in the plural. The word they works for all subjects.
- For animals, use it unless you know and love the animal. Then use he or she.

Examples of subject pronouns:

I am from Korea. It is very difficult to swim across the
Ken and I are good buddies. lake.
You are very nice. We are very happy to be here.
He is a pharmacist. You are all invited to my house.
She is the director of the company. They are never late.
### Object Pronouns:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First person singular</th>
<th>me</th>
<th>First person plural</th>
<th>us</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Second person singular</td>
<td>you</td>
<td>Second person plural</td>
<td>you</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third person singular</td>
<td>him</td>
<td>Third person plural</td>
<td>them</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>her</td>
<td></td>
<td>them</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>it</td>
<td></td>
<td>them</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Notes:**

- Object pronouns may serve as the object of a *verb* or the object of a *preposition*.
- All object pronouns are in lowercase unless they are the first word in a sentence.
- As with subject pronouns, there is no distinction between familiar and formal forms of you.
- As with subject pronouns, there is no distinction between third person masculine, feminine, and neuter forms in the plural. **Them** is the only third person plural pronoun used.

**Examples of pronouns as objects of a verb:**

- Marcia called *me* at 3:00 a.m.
- Laura mentioned *you* yesterday.
- The professor asked *him* a question.
- The manager gave *her* a promotion.
- Samantha read *it* last night.
- Sandra invited *us* to dinner.
- The airline gave *them* free tickets.

**Examples of pronouns as objects of a preposition:**

- Usha gave the book to *me*.
- Between *you and me*, I think that he is the worst player on the team.
- Barbara will ride with *you* to Ottawa.
- Nancy received an email from *him* last week.
- Sun Hee and Nam spoke about *her* this morning.
- You had better get to *it*. Don’t delay.
- Henry came with *us* to the party.
- Kenneth ran after *them*.

### Relative Pronouns:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pronoun</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>who</td>
<td>Used only for people.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>that</td>
<td>Used for people and things. <strong>That</strong> cannot follow a comma.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>which</td>
<td>Used only for things. When the relative pronoun follows a comma, only <em>which</em>, and not <em>that</em>, may be used.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>whom</td>
<td>Used for people as the object of a verb or preposition in an adjective clause – <strong>whom</strong> is used in very formal English, more often in writing than in speaking.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>whose</td>
<td>Used as a possessive – always followed by a noun.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Examples of relative pronouns:**

- The man *who* stole my bag was very tall and thin.
- The book *that* I read yesterday was written in Russian.
- Gary comes from Moscow, *which* is very cold in the winter.
- The woman *whom* I told you about is my English professor.
- The house *in which* Sheila grew up is for sale.
- The man *to whom* I gave my book is absent today.
- The man *whose car* was stolen had to take the bus home.
Exercise 1:
Change the noun in the sentences to a subject pronoun.

1. John is the floor manager. ________ is the floor manager.
2. Riccardo really likes Mary. ________ really likes Mary.
3. Hank’s dog is a poodle. ________ is a poodle.
4. Maria is a dog trainer. ________ is a dog trainer.
5. Bob and Gina are best friends. ________ are best friends.
6. Theo and I work at the mall. ________ work at the mall.
7. The book is very long. ________ is very long.
8. The sandwiches are made of ham. ________ are made of ham.
9. The professor and the student met at 3:00. ________ met at 3:00.
10. Adam and I ate lunch together. ________ ate lunch together.

Exercise 2:
Change the noun in the sentences to an object pronoun.

1. Johnson bought a dog at the kennel. Johnson bought ________ at the kennel.
2. Riccardo really likes Mary. Riccardo really likes ________.
3. I can’t take this situation anymore. I can’t take ________ anymore.
4. Brooke read a long book in one night. Brooke read ________ in one night.
5. Bob went on vacation with Joe. Bob went on vacation with ________.
6. I drank two cups of coffee at the mall. I drank ________ at the mall.
8. Gina ate two sandwiches at Tom’s house. Gina ate ________ at Tom’s house.
9. The professor called on Sunhee and Meylim. The professor called on ________.
10. Mr. Sampson ate an apple. Mr. Sampson ate ________.
Exercise 3:
Decide if the sentences need a subject or object pronoun.

1. Henry and _____ are going to the game tomorrow.
   a. I
   b. me

2. Mary cannot understand _____ when Carla speaks French.
   a. she
   b. her

3. Han Bin and ______ went to the movies.
   a. I
   b. her

4. Mary said that _____ and her brother often eat at that restaurant.
   a. she
   b. her

5. The rent is too high for ________ .
   a. they
   b. them

6. ________ is the best friend I’ve ever had.
   a. Her
   b. She

7. Chris and ______ want to travel to Vietnam together.
   a. I
   b. me

8. I don’t want to talk to _____ or his brother.
   a. he
   b. him

9. I met Mey Lin and _____ at the movie theater.
   a. she
   b. her

10. May _____ come in now?
    a. we
    b. us
Exercise 4:
Decide if the sentences need a subject or object pronoun.

1. If you see your parents tomorrow, give _____ my best regards.
   a. they
   b. them

2. The coach called Bob and ____ last night.
   a. I
   b. me

3. ________ met a friend of ours at the mall yesterday.
   a. Us
   b. We

4. I can’t find my books. Can I use yours, Joe? I will give _____ back tomorrow.
   a. them
   b. they

5. ________ are the best players on the team.
   a. They
   b. Them

6. Can you take this letter and give ______ to Louisa?.
   a. it
   b. her

7. Paul called Chris and _____ because he wants us to travel to Vietnam together.
   a. I
   b. me

8. ______ doesn’t want to talk about the terrible game anymore.
   a. He
   b. Him

9. Mey Lin and ____ are best friends.
   a. me
   b. I

10. Margarita sent ____ an email about the test.
    a. we
    b. us
Exercise 5:
*Error Correction. Locate the error, correct it, and rewrite the sentence correctly.*

1. Me and Diana work together.

2. Ricky and me are both taking psychology.


4. Maria she is a dancer.

5. Is you the manager of this store?

6. Victor and me are old friends.

7. Its a girl!

8. Their both from China.

9. Sid and me have been going out for about two months.

10. Me and Joanna don’t know how to cook.
Exercise 6:
Error Correction. Locate the error, correct it, and rewrite the sentence correctly.

1. Between you and I, I think that John is a bad speaker.

2. Rick and me have been going out for six months.

3. Oscar has two cars, one of that is a Ford.

4. The woman about her I was talking comes from China.

5. The article on that I was discussing was about genetics.

6. Me and Mario are going to the movies later.

7. I met three people, one of that is a nurse at Valley Hospital.

8. They got divorced, that is a real shame.

9. Ronit Patel lives in Delhi, that has a population of 17,000,000.

10. The man about who I was speaking comes from Mongolia.
Exercise 7:
*Insert the correct relative pronoun in the blanks.*

1. I would never marry a person _______ smokes four packs a day.
2. Mary is going out with a man _______ mother lives upstairs.
3. The book _______ Irina bought yesterday was written by Leo Tolstoy.
4. Sam has two cars, one of _______ is a Saab.
5. Paula and Henrietta visited Rome, _______ is located on the Tiber River.
6. People _______ lie usually get into trouble.
7. The woman about _______ I was speaking comes from Romania.
8. I had dinner with Romeo Jackson, _______ is a film director.
9. I met Linda in the London train station, _______ was a real coincidence.
10. The bicycle _______ Victoria bought was made in France.

Exercise 8:
*Insert the correct relative pronoun in the blanks.*

1. I hate people _______ lie all the time.
2. Mary is only person _______ comes to work on time every day.
3. The car _______ Irine drove last week was her brother’s.
4. Samantha lives in Paris, _______ is one of the most romantic places anywhere.
5. Paul visited Vietnam, _______ is located in southeast Asia.
6. The suit _______ I bought cost $200.
7. The man about _______ I was talking is my boss.
8. The woman to _______ I gave the ring is very intelligent.
9. I bought a Mercedes 350, _______ cost $55,000.
10. Priscilla read Huckleberry Finn, _______ was written by Mark Twain.
Answer Key

**Exercise 1:**
1. He  
2. He  
3. It  
4. She  
5. They  
6. We  
7. It  
8. They  
9. They  
10. We

**Exercise 2:**
1. it  
2. her  
3. it  
4. it  
5. him  
6. them  
7. her  
8. them  
9. them  
10. it

**Exercise 3:**
1. a  
2. b  
3. a  
4. a  
5. a  
6. b  
7. a  
8. b  
9. b  
10. a

**Exercise 4:**
1. b  
2. b  
3. b  
4. a  
5. a  
6. a  
7. b  
8. a  
9. b  
10. b

**Exercise 5:**
1. Diana and I work together.  
2. Ricky and I are both taking psychology.  
3. Paula and I live in Youngstown, Ohio.  
4. Maria is a dancer.  
5. Are you the manager of this store.  
6. Victor and I are old friends.  
7. It’s a girl!  
8. They are both from China.  
9. Sid and I have been going out for about two months.  
10. Joanna and I don’t know how to cook.

**Exercise 6:**
1. Between you and me, I think that John is a bad speaker.  
2. Rick and I have been going out for six months.  
3. Oscar has two cars, one of which is a Ford.  
4. The woman about whom I was talking comes from China.
5. The article which I was discussing was about genetics.

**Exercise 7:**
1. who/that  
2. whose  
3. that  
4. which  
5. which  
6. who/that  
7. whom  
8. who  
9. which  
10. that

**Exercise 8:**
1. who/that  
2. who/that  
3. that  
4. which  
5. which  
6. that  
7. whom  
8. whom  
9. which  
10. which

**Spelling Note:** This lesson shows the American spelling of the word **Theater** on page 5. Most other English-speaking countries spell it this way: **Theatre**. Make it a challenge for your students to find this word in the lesson and see if they know the alternate spelling.