

The image shows the cover of a spiral-bound notebook. The cover is a light beige or cream color with a subtle, repeating pattern of faint, stylized floral or geometric motifs. The spiral binding is visible on the left side, consisting of a series of metal loops. The text is centered on the cover in a dark brown, serif font.

# The Book of Grammar

## Lesson Three

Mr. McBride  
AP English

# Table of Contents

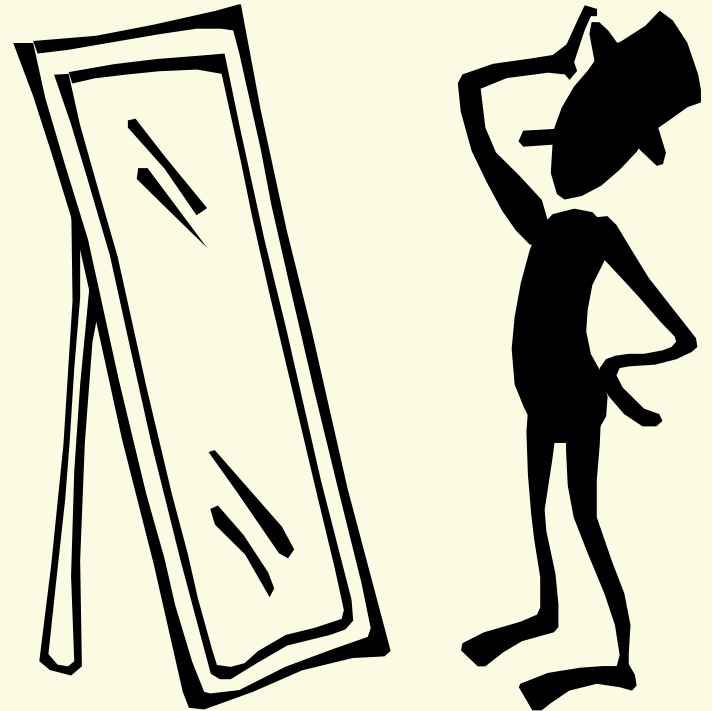
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- Lesson One: Prepositions and Prepositional Phrases
- Lesson Two: The Function of Nouns in a Sentence
- **Lesson Three: Personal Pronoun Agreement – Case**
- Lesson Four: Personal Pronoun Agreement – Number
- Lesson Five: The Relative Pronouns
- Lesson Six: Sentence Diagramming



# But don't I already know everything about pronouns?

- When you answer the phone and someone asks to speak to you, do you say "This is me" or "This is he/she"? Why?
- Do I say "As strong as I" or "As strong as me"?
- What's a predicate pronoun?



# But don't I already know everything about pronouns?

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- When you answer the phone and someone asks to speak to you, do you say “This is me” or “This is he/she”?
- Do I say “As strong as I” or “As strong as me”?
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# What you should know by the end of Lesson Three:

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- What a personal pronoun is
- What an *antecedent* is
- The properties of a personal pronoun:
  - Person: 1st, 2nd, 3rd
  - Case: nominative, objective, and possessive
  - Use: subject, predicate pronoun, object

# The definition of a pronoun:

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A pronoun is a word used in place of a noun.

- A Pronoun is a word used in the place of a noun. Its most common use is as a substitute word employed to prevent the awkward repetition of a noun.
- The noun for which the pronoun is stepping in is called its *antecedent*.

# So, for instance...

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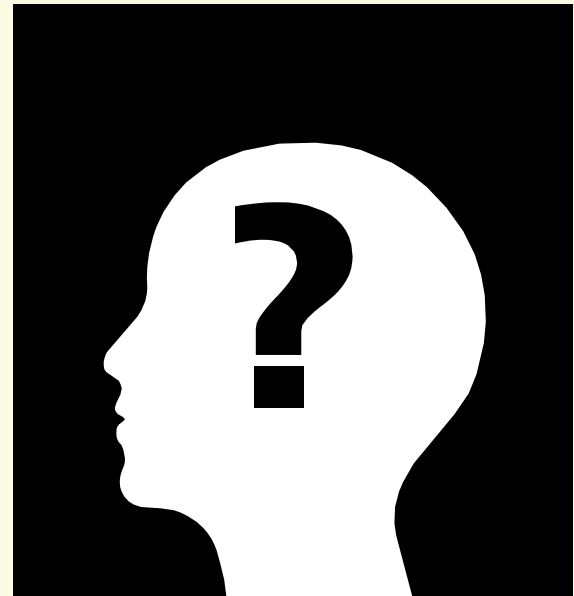
- Jim decided to go to the store because Jim needed to get a tire for Jim's tricycle.  
→ *Becomes....*
- Jim decided to go to the store because he needed to get a tire for his tricycle.  
→ *Jim is the antecedent of the pronoun "he."*

# The different kinds of pronouns:

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- There are several different kinds of pronouns. Today's lesson covers Personal Pronouns.

- Personal
- Relative
- Interrogative
- Demonstrative
- Indefinite
- Reflexive

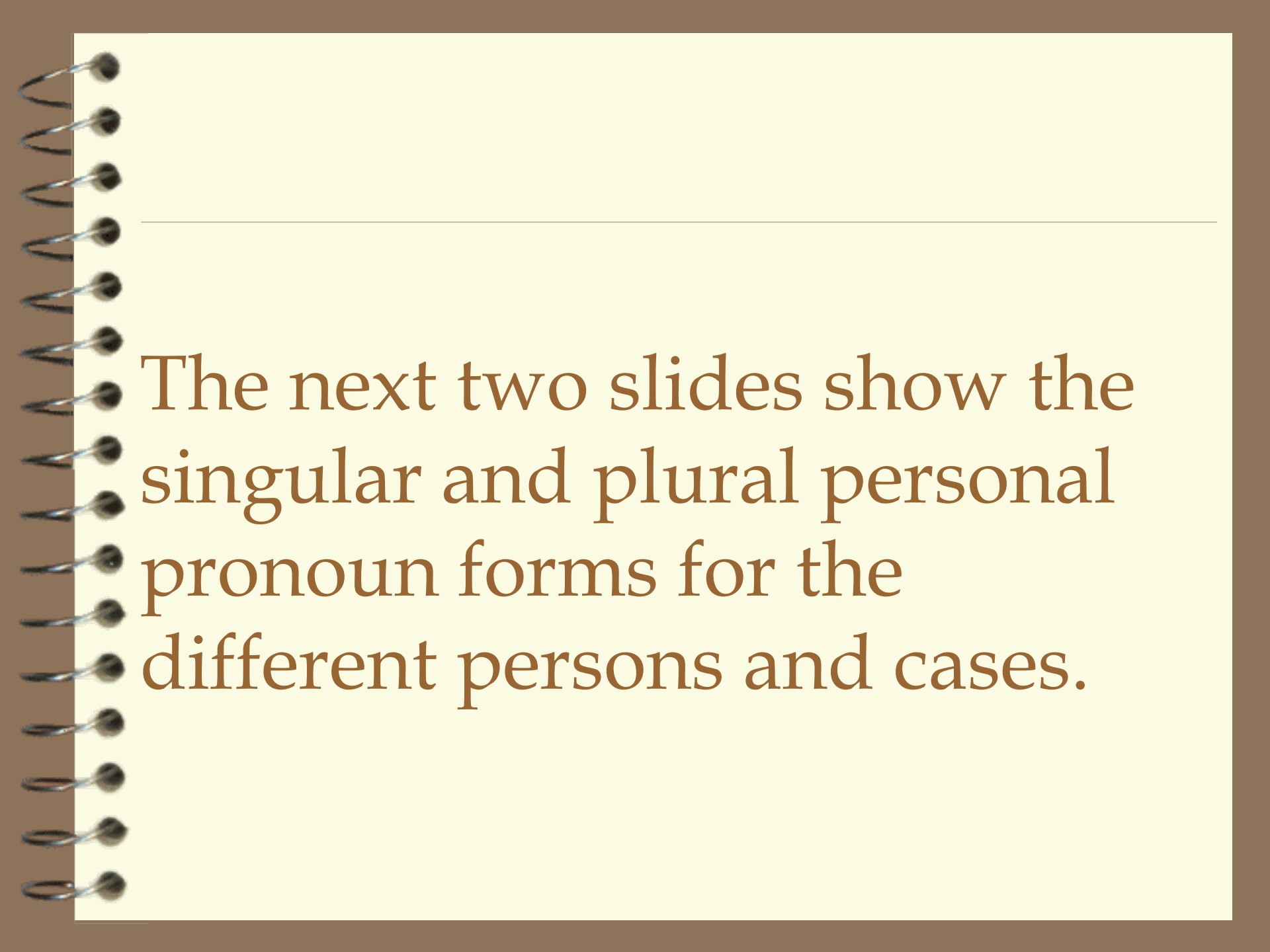




# Personal Pronouns

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- The few pronouns in English that have different forms to show *person* or point of view (first person, second person, third person) are called personal pronouns.
  - Personal pronouns refer to people or things.
  - Personal pronouns change their form to indicate gender and whether the antecedent is singular or plural.
  - Personal pronouns have different forms in the nominative, objective, and possessive cases.

A graphic of a spiral-bound notebook with a light cream-colored page and a dark brown cover. The spiral binding is on the left side. A thin horizontal line is drawn across the page, approximately one-third of the way down. The text is written in a brown, serif font.

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The next two slides show the singular and plural personal pronoun forms for the different persons and cases.

# Nominative, Objective, and Possessive Cases for the **Singular** Personal Pronoun:

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Nominative  
Case

Objective  
Case

Possessive  
Case

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First Person:  
**I**

First Person:  
**me**

First Person:  
**my, mine**

Second Person:  
**you**

Second Person:  
**you**

Second Person:  
**your, yours**

Third Person:  
**he, she, it**

Third Person:  
**him, her, it**

Third Person:  
**his, her, hers, its**

# Nominative, Objective, and Possessive Cases for the Plural Personal Pronoun:

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Nominative  
Case

Objective  
Case

Possessive  
Case

---

First Person:  
**we**

First Person:  
**us**

First Person:  
**our, ours**

Second Person:  
**you**

Second Person:  
**you**

Second Person:  
**your, yours**

Third Person:  
**they**

Third Person:  
**them**

Third Person:  
**their, theirs**

## *Five properties of Personal Pronouns...*

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- The form of a personal pronoun indicates five pieces of information:
  - It indicates what point of view is being used in the sentence: (*I, you, he*)
  - It tells whether the antecedent noun is singular or plural. (*I, we*)
  - It can indicate gender. (*he, she, him, her*)
  - It tells whether the pronoun is a subject or an object in the sentence. (*she/we, her/us*)
  - It can indicate possession. (*mine, yours, his*)

# Personal pronouns indicate point of view:

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- The “person” in personal pronouns refers to the three points of view:
  - The speaker can be referring to himself or herself:
    - first person; “*I*”
  - The speaker can directly addressing someone to whom he or she is speaking:
    - second person; “*you*”
  - The speaker can be referring to anyone or anything else:
    - third person; “*he, she, it*”

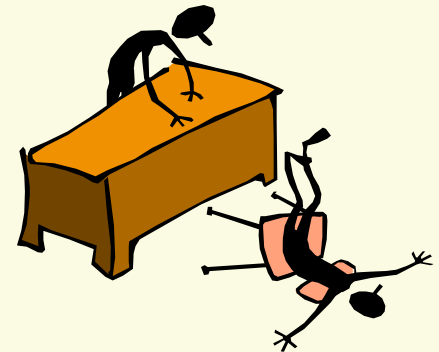
# Personal pronouns indicate number:

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- All personal pronouns have singular and plural forms.
- Personal pronouns must agree with their antecedent (noun they are replacing) in number.

→ The teacher told the student that \_\_\_\_\_ had failed the test.

- *they* or *s/he*?



# Personal pronouns can indicate gender:

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- Third person singular personal pronouns indicate gender.
  - “After Mother told *her* that *she* couldn’t have a dog, *she* took her plant for a walk every night.”



Personal pronouns indicate whether the pronoun is a subject or an object in the sentence:

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- Personal pronouns can be separated into three different *cases*, or forms.
  - The different cases are assigned depending on how the pronoun is used in the sentence.
- To know which case to use, first find the function of the pronoun in the sentence:
  - If the pronoun is used as a subject or predicate noun: Use Nominative Case
  - If the pronoun is used as a direct object, an indirect object, or as the object of a preposition: Use Objective Case

# The Nominative Case



- The nominative case form of the pronoun is used when the pronoun is the subject of a sentence or a clause.
- “*He* remembered how to find the subject of a sentence.”
  - *He* is the subject of the sentence, so the nominative form is used.
  - The objective form is *him*; would you ever say, “*Him* remembered”?
  - We would say that *he* is the third person nominative case form of the personal pronoun.

# The Predicate Pronoun

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- When a pronoun is used to replace a predicate noun, it is called a predicate pronoun. (It is also sometimes called a *predicate nominative*)
- The nominative form of the personal pronoun is used when it is a predicate pronoun.
  - Think back to the definition of a predicate noun: a predicate pronoun is a pronoun in the predicate that refers to the same thing as the subject of the sentence and is connected by a linking verb.

## Predicate pronouns continued...

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- For example: “That man is he,” Jim shouted at the police line-up.
  - *He*, which refers back to *man* (the subject) is a predicate pronoun. Note that it is in the nominative case in the example.
  - Like a predicate noun, a predicate pronoun always follows a linking verb such as *am*, *is*, *are*, *was*, *were*, *be*, etc.

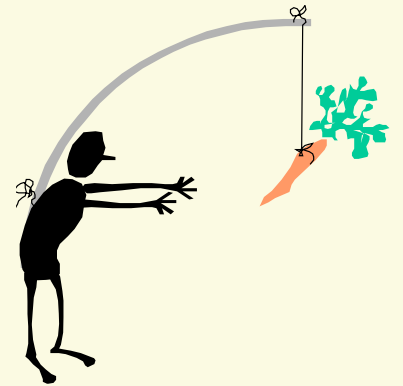
# The Objective Case

- When a pronoun is an object in a sentence or clause it is said to be in the *objective case*, and the objective form of the pronoun is used.
- The pronoun can be an indirect object, an object of the preposition, or a direct object.
  - “The waitress brought *him* the food.”  
**Indirect Object**
  - “The waitress brought the food to *him*.”  
**Object of a Preposition**
  - “The waitress kicked *him* after he only tipped 13% on the bill.” **Direct Object**



# The Possessive Case

- The possessive case form of a pronoun shows possession.
  - “One day the carrot will be *mine*.”
    - *Mine* is in the possessive case.
- Important note: pronouns in the possessive case are always adjectives when used in a sentence.
  - This is because possessive form of a pronoun is always giving more information about a noun, telling whom it belongs to: “It is *my* carrot.”



## Examples of personal pronoun problems: Nominative or objective case?

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- Which sentence is correct and why?
  - *Bob and me went fishing.*
  - *Bob and I went fishing.*
- The correct answer is “Bob and I went fishing.”
  - *Bob and I* is the subject of the sentence. A pronoun used as a subject requires the nominative case form. *I* is the nominative form of the pronoun.

# Another example...

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- Which sentence is correct and why?
  - *Ted threw Bob and I the Frisbee.*
  - *Ted threw Bob and me the Frisbee.*





## The answer is...

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- The correct answer is “Ted threw Bob and me the Frisbee.”
  - To whom or for whom was the Frisbee thrown? The pronoun is an indirect object in the sentence, requiring the objective form: *me*.
  - For compound constructions, test each term separately: Would you say “Ted threw *I* the Frisbee”?

## Examples of personal pronoun problems: Before an Appositive

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- The form of pronouns followed by an appositive is not affected by the appositive:
  - “\_\_\_\_\_ juniors have a difficult life.” *We* or *Us*?
  - By removing the appositive, *juniors*, it is easy to see that the correct answer should be *We*.
    - Always remove the appositive to make it easier to determine what form of the pronoun to use.

# Another example...

- When the phone rings and you answer it and the person on the other end asks for you, which is the grammatically proper response?
  - “This is me.”
  - “This is he.”
  - “This is him.”



# The answer is...

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- The correct answer is “This is he.”
  - To understand why this is so, you must remember what a predicate pronoun is. *He* is a predicate pronoun because it is a pronoun in the predicate that refers to the same thing as the subject, in this case *this*.
  - A predicate pronoun takes the nominative form of the pronoun, in this example *he*.

# Personal Pronouns after *than* or *as*

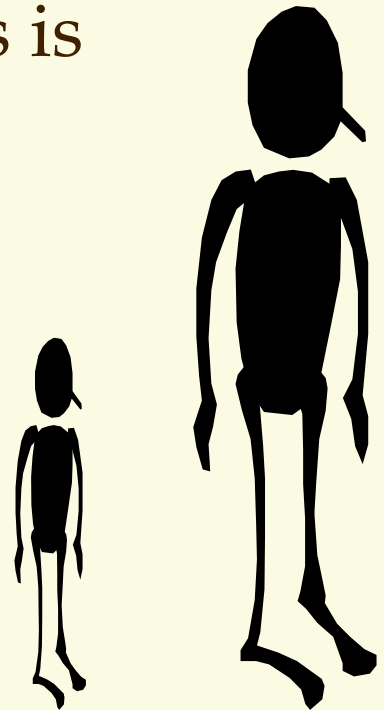
- The case of pronouns after *than* and *as* in comparisons requires special attention. Which of the following examples is correct?

→ *He is as strong as I.*

→ *He is as strong as me.*

→ *She is taller than I.*

→ *She is taller than me.*



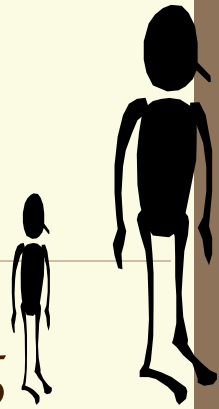
## Personal pronouns after *than* or *as* continued...

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- The correct answer is...
  - *He is as strong as I (am)*. **Right**
  - *He is as strong as me (am)*. **Wrong**
  - *She is taller than I (am)*. **Right**
  - *She is taller than me (am)*. **Wrong**
- The somewhat complicated explanation of why this is so follows....

## Personal pronouns after *than* or *as* continued...

- *Than* and *as* are both conjunctions, joining complete clauses in a sentence. It has become common, however, to drop out the verb in a clause joined by *than* or *as*.
  - I am taller *than* she (is).
- Despite the verb being left out, the pronoun following *than* or *as* is still the subject of the clause, meaning you must use the nominative case form.



# What you should know by the end of this lesson:

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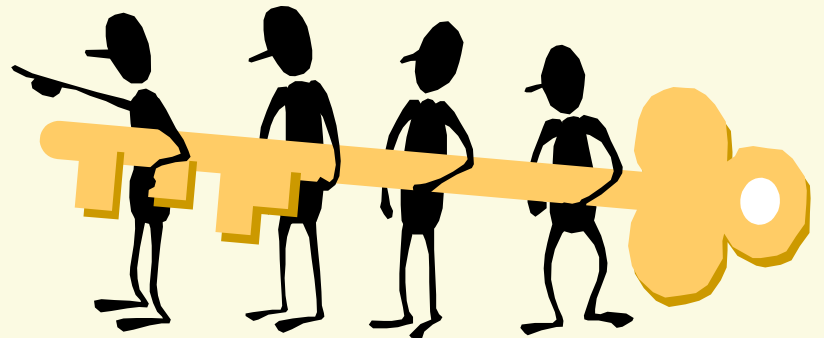
- What a personal pronoun is
- What an antecedent is
- The properties of a personal pronoun:
  - Person: 1st, 2nd, 3rd
  - Case: nominative, objective, and possessive
  - Use: subject, predicate pronoun, object



So do you know the answer to these questions now?

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- When you answer the phone and someone asks to speak to you, do you say “It’s me” or “This is he/she”? Why?
- What’s a predicate pronoun?



A spiral-bound notebook with a light beige, textured cover. The spiral binding is on the left side. The text is centered on the page.

# The end of Lesson Three

Quiz on Tuesday, October 30<sup>th</sup>