

Subject Pronouns vs. Object Pronouns

I vs. Me

“I” acts as the subject of the sentence and is a subject pronoun. The subject of a sentence performs the action.

“Me” acts as the object of the sentence and is an object pronoun. The object of a sentence receives the action the subject performs.

1. I took Professor Portillo’s class in 2010, and I received an A.
 - After a conjunction (and, but, so, yet, for, nor, or), remember to treat the clause separately. Identify the subject and object. In this sentence, the subject in the second independent clause is the same as the first. The same person that took the class is receiving the A.
2. Teresa and I broke up because long distance relationships are hard.
 - There can be more than one subject in a sentence. In this case, “I” is the other subject that performs the action with Teresa.
3. The gift he gave me was romantic.
 - Even though the sentence does not start with a subject, find the verb “gave” and ask who the one is doing the giving. “He” is the subject and therefore is in subject form. “Me” is the object of this sentence.
4. Theo Simpla, a lawyer in Los Angeles, promised to help me settle a civil suit.
 - Even though there is a nonessential clause in this sentence (a lawyer in Los Angeles) that gives us extra information about Theo Simpla, do not forget that Theo is the subject of the sentence. Theo is the one doing the promising/helping. If we were to replace his name with a pronoun, it would be the subject pronoun “he.” The one receiving the help from Theo is “me” and that is why it is in the object pronoun form.

WRONG: She bought groceries for Priscilla and I.

- She is the subject of this sentence, the one doing the buying. Priscilla and “I” are the objects, the receivers of the groceries. Therefore, “I” should be changed to “me.”
- She bought groceries for Priscilla and me.

Myself/ Himself/ Herself/Itself

Myself, himself, herself, and itself are reflexive pronouns that serve the place of an object. That means that the subject of the sentences is the same as the object. These reflexive pronouns indicate that the subject did something for him/herself.

1. I can take care of myself.
2. I bought a bouquet of flowers for myself after I left work.
3. He only trusts his safe combination with himself.



She/He vs. Her/Him vs. They/Them

1. She looked at him in the mirror and smiled.
 - Because “him” is the one receiving the look, it is in object pronoun form.
2. He wanted to cook her dinner, but she refused to let him.
 - He is the subject who desires to do the cooking and he is cooking dinner for “her,” the object. After the conjunction “but,” “she” becomes the subject who refuses to allow “him” (the object) to cook.
3. They didn’t want to go with her to the movies.
 - “They” is the subject who didn’t want to go to the movies; “her” is the indirect object so it must be written in object form.
 - WRONG: Ramona and her go to Los Angeles Mission College.
 - “Her” should be “she” because she is the subject pronoun. “Her” is reserved only for objects, and in this case, both Ramona and the other subject are performing the action of going to Mission College.

Practice the following sentences on your own by removing the subjects and objects and substituting them with the appropriate pronoun. You may also fill in the appropriate blank. There may be several correct answers.

Example: Romela called Brian to set a date for the graduation party.

She called him to set a date for the graduation party.

1. Tiffany was leaving Robert because Robert had cheated on Tiffany with his secretary.

2. Mrs. Robinson looked in the mirror at _____.

3. Raul and Taline completed their finals and give their exams to Professor Aguilar.

_____.

4. I designed the layout of the home _____.

5. Ricardo and _____ were both fired on Monday after the boss caught _____ stealing money from the cash register.

6. Samuel and Mona refused to go to the concert with _____.

