Pronouns (Subject, Object and Possessive)

Solutions manual and marking guidance (for learners checking their work, and for instructors).

O1: Explain what a pronoun does and why we use it, including first, second and third person.

Q01 [Foundational · short answer] What is a pronoun?

Answer: A word that stands in for a noun, so we do not repeat the noun.

Q02 [Foundational · classification] Which person is each pronoun? we, you, they, I, she.

Answer: we 1st, you 2nd, they 3rd, I 1st, she 3rd.

1. 1st speaker, 2nd listener, 3rd others.

Q03 [Foundational · rewrite] Replace the repeated nouns: 'Lina finished Lina's homework, and then Lina helped Lina's brother.'

Answer: Lina finished her homework, and then she helped her brother.

Q04 [Core · identification] Find the antecedent of each pronoun: 'The students opened their books because they had a test.'

Answer: their the students; they the students.

1. The antecedent is the noun the pronoun refers to.

Q05 [Core · short answer] Give two meanings of 'they' and an example of each.

Answer: Plural: 'My parents are here; they arrived today.' Singular for an unknown person: 'Someone called, but they didn't leave a name.'

Q06 [Applied · conceptual] Why does English need different forms like he / him / his, when other words (like 'Sam') do not change?

Answer: Pronouns show their job in the sentence by their form: subject, object or possessive; nouns show it mostly by word order (and 's for possession).

1. Mentions job/function (1); contrast with nouns (1).

Q07 [Advanced · analysis] Count and classify every pronoun in: 'I told them that their idea was better than mine, and they thanked me.'

Answer: I (subject), them (object), their (possessive adjective), mine (possessive pronoun), they (subject), me (object): 6 pronouns.

1. 1 mark each (6).

O2: Use subject pronouns before the verb and object pronouns after verbs and prepositions.

Q08 [Foundational · gap fill] Write the object form of each subject pronoun: I, you, he, she, it, we, they.

Answer: me, you, him, her, it, us, them.

1. you and it do not change.

Q09 [Foundational · choice] Choose: (a) (We / Us) are ready. (b) Please call (they / them). (c) This gift is for (she / her).

Answer: (a) We (b) them (c) her

Q10 [Core · choice] Choose: (a) My friend and (I / me) visited Rome. (b) The guide showed my friend and (I / me) the museum.

Answer: (a) I (subject) (b) me (object of 'showed').

1. Remove 'my friend and' to test.

Q11 [Core · transformation] Swap the roles: 'She thanked him.' (he thanks her)

Answer: He thanked her.

1. Subject before the verb, object after it.

Q12 [Applied · correction] Correct: 'Between you and I, him and her are not happy.'

Answer: Between you and me, he and she are not happy.

1. Preposition object forms; subjects subject forms.

Q13 [Applied · explanation] Is 'She is taller than me' correct? Explain formal and everyday choices.

Answer: Yes in everyday English (object after than); formal: 'She is taller than I am.'

1. See extra section.

Q14 [Advanced · writing] Write four sentences about your family using at least three subject and three object pronouns correctly. Underline subjects once and objects twice.

Answer: Model: 'My sister calls me every day. We talk about her job. Our parents visit us on Sundays, and they bring us food.'

1. Correct forms (6); correct underlining (2).

O3: Show possession with possessive adjectives (before a noun) and possessive pronouns (standing alone), without apostrophes.

Q15 [Foundational · gap fill] Write the possessive adjective: I ___, you ___, he ___, she ___, we ___, they ___.

Answer: my, your, his, her, our, their.

Q16 [Foundational · choice] Choose: (a) Is this (your / yours) coat? (b) The coat is (your / yours).

Answer: (a) your (before a noun) (b) yours (stands alone)

Q17 [Core · rewrite] Rewrite with a possessive pronoun: 'This is our car.' 'Those are her keys.'

Answer: This car is ours. Those keys are hers.

Q18 [Core · correction] Correct: 'The house is their's and the garden is our's.'

Answer: The house is theirs and the garden is ours.

1. No apostrophes in possessive pronouns.

Q19 [Applied · explanation] Why do we write 'Sam's book' with an apostrophe but 'his book' and 'its cover' without one?

Answer: Nouns form possessives with 's; pronouns have their own possessive forms (his, its), which never take an apostrophe.

Q20 [Applied · terminology] A grammar book calls 'my' a determiner; your school book calls it an adjective. Who is right?

Answer: Both: possessive adjective is the traditional name, possessive determiner the modern one, for the same words.

Q21 [Advanced · dialogue] Write a six-line dialogue at a lost-property desk using mine, yours, hers, my, your and her correctly.

Answer: Model: A: Is this umbrella yours? B: No, mine is red. A: What about this bag? B: That's my sister's. It's hers. A: And this is your phone? B: Yes! Thank you. Her phone is at home.

1. Each correct use 1 mark (6).

O4: Avoid common pronoun mistakes: me and him went, between you and I, its / it's, your / you're, their / they're / there, unclear reference.

Q22 [Foundational · choice] its or it's? (a) ___ cold today. (b) The company changed ___ name.

Answer: (a) It's (b) its

1. Test with 'it is'.

Q23 [Foundational · choice] your or you're? (a) ___ welcome. (b) Is this ___ seat?

Answer: (a) You're (b) your

Q24 [Core · choice] their, they're or there? (a) ___ coming at six. (b) Put the box over ___. (c) ___ car is new.

Answer: (a) They're (b) there (c) Their

Q25 [Core · correction] Correct: 'Me and my friends is going to the cinema.'

Answer: My friends and I are going to the cinema.

1. Subject form; plural verb; yourself last.

Q26 [Applied · rewrite] Make the pronoun clear: 'Grace phoned Ama after she got home.'

Answer: Example: 'After Grace got home, she phoned Ama.' or 'Grace phoned Ama after Ama got home.'

Q27 [Applied · editing] Find and correct four errors: 'Your going to love it's new design. Them and me worked on it, and the idea was our's.'

Answer: You're; its; They and I; ours.

1. 1 mark each (4).

Q28 [Advanced · long answer] Explain to a classmate, in about 80 words, how to choose between I and me, with two tests and three examples.

Answer: Model: I is the subject form (before the verb), me the object form (after a verb or preposition). Test 1: remove the other person ('my friend and I went' 'I went'). Test 2: after a preposition always use me ('for me'). Examples: 'Tom and I cooked.' 'She invited Tom and me.' 'This is between you and me.'

1. Correct rule (2); two tests (2); three correct examples (3); clear explanation (1). Total 8.

Marking scheme: Assignment 1: lost property (individual)

- Subject and object pronouns correct: 8 marks
- Possessive adjectives and pronouns correct: 8 marks
- its / it's correct: 2 marks
- Clear, natural dialogue: 2 marks (total 20)

Marking scheme: Assignment 2: pronoun editor (pair work)

- Five mistakes found and corrected: 5 marks
- Five correct rules: 5 marks
- Own paragraph contains five valid mistakes: 2 marks (total 12)