

(2) The possessive pronouns *my, your, his, her, its, our, and their* are used as adjectives before nouns.

EXAMPLES **My** alarm clock is broken.

Do you know **their** address?

NOTE Some authorities prefer to call these possessive forms adjectives. Follow your teacher's instructions regarding these words.

Generally, a noun or pronoun preceding a gerund should be in the possessive case.

EXAMPLES We were all thrilled by **Ken's** scoring in the top 5 percent.
[*Ken's* modifies the gerund *scoring*. *Whose scoring? Ken's scoring.*]

We were all thrilled by **his** scoring in the top 5 percent.
[*Whose scoring? His scoring.*]

Reference Note

For more about **gerunds**, see page 127.

Review C Identifying Correct Forms of Pronouns

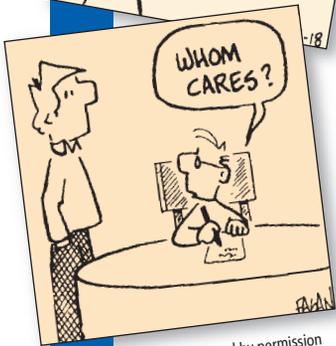
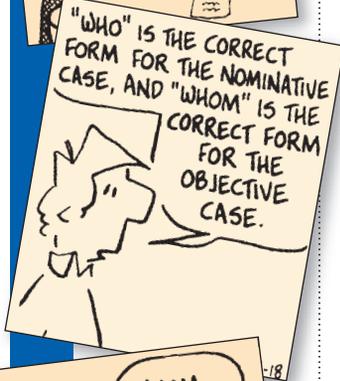
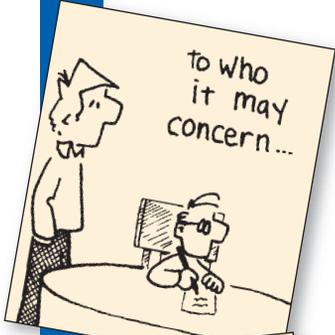
Choose the correct pronoun from each pair given in parentheses in the following paragraph.

EXAMPLE My cousin Felicia showed [1] (*I, me*) some photographs of buildings designed by I. M. Pei.

1. *me*

Felicia, who is studying architecture, told [1] (*I, me*) a little about Pei. [2] (*He, Him*) is a famous American architect who was born in China. In 1935, [3] (*him, he*) came to the United States to study, and in 1954, [4] the government granted (*he, him*) citizenship. Pei's reputation grew quickly, and by the 1960s many people easily recognized the structures [5] (*he, him*) designed. His buildings, such as the East





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Building of the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C., are quite distinctive; consequently, many people greatly admire [6] (*they, them*). [7] (*Him, His*) being in charge of numerous projects in the United States, Europe, and Canada earned Pei an international reputation. Did you know that the architect of the glass pyramids at the Louvre is [8] (*him, he*)? Felicia doesn't like the pyramids because [9] (*they, them*) look so different from the buildings that surround them. However, I think that design of [10] (*him, his*) is a work of art.

Review D Identifying Correct Pronoun Forms

For each of the following sentences, choose the correct pronoun in parentheses. Then, give its use in the sentence—as a *subject*, *predicate nominative*, *direct object*, *indirect object*, or *object of the preposition*.

EXAMPLE 1. Did Alva or (*she, her*) leave a message?

1. *she*—subject

- The pranksters were (*they, them*).
- (*He, Him*) and (*I, me*) are working on a special science project.
- Is that package for Mom or (*I, me*)?
- No one saw Otis or (*I, me*) behind the door.
- I hope that you and (*she, her*) will be on time.
- The teacher gave Rosa and (*I, me*) extra math homework.
- That's (*he, him*) on the red bicycle.
- Between you and (*I, me*), I like your plan better.
- When are your parents and (*they, them*) coming home?
- Everyone in the class except (*she, her*) and (*I, me*) had read the selection from the *Mahabharata*.

Review E Identifying Correct Pronoun Forms

For each sentence in the following paragraph, choose the correct pronoun in parentheses. Then, give its use in the sentence—as a *subject*, *predicate nominative*, *direct object*, *indirect object*, or *object of the preposition*.

EXAMPLE You may not know [1] (*they, them*) by name, but you may remember the actors Ossie Davis and Ruby Dee from movies or television shows.

1. *them*—direct object

For many years, the actors Ossie Davis and Ruby Dee entertained [1] (*we, us*) fans of movies and television with their talented performances. My friend Elvin and [2] (*me, I*) really admire both of [3] (*they, them*). Did you know that [4] (*they, them*) were married for fifty-six years? When Davis worked on Broadway, [5] (*he, him*) wrote and starred in *Purlie Victorious*, and critics gave [6] (*he, him*) great reviews. In addition, [7] (*him, he*) appeared on the TV show *Evening Shade*. One of the stars of the movie *The Jackie Robinson Story* was [8] (*she, her*). What Elvin and [9] (*me, I*) admire most about Davis and Dee is that [10] (*them, they*) were fine performers who actively supported civil rights and other humanitarian causes.

Special Pronoun Problems

Who and Whom

Nominative Case		Objective Case	
who	whoever	whom	whomever

7h. The use of *who* or *whom* in a subordinate clause depends on how the pronoun functions in the clause.

When you are choosing between *who* or *whom* in a subordinate clause, follow these steps:

- STEP 1** Find the subordinate clause.
- STEP 2** Decide how the pronoun is used in the clause—as a subject, a predicate nominative, a direct or indirect object, or an object of a preposition.
- STEP 3** Determine the case of the pronoun according to the rules of formal standard English.
- STEP 4** Select the correct form of the pronoun.

EXAMPLE Do you know (*who, whom*) she is?

- STEP 1** The subordinate clause is (*who, whom*) *she is*.
- STEP 2** The pronoun (*who, whom*) is the predicate nominative: *she is who*.
- STEP 3** As a predicate nominative, the pronoun is in the nominative case.
- STEP 4** The nominative form is *who*.

ANSWER Do you know **who** she is?

Think as a Reader/Writer

In informal English, the use of *whom* is becoming less common. In informal situations, you may correctly begin any question with *who* regardless of the grammar of the sentence. In formal English, however, you should distinguish between *who* and *whom*.

Think as a Reader/Writer

Frequently, *whom* in subordinate clauses is omitted in informal situations, but its use is understood.

EXAMPLE

The people (*whom*) you imitate are your role models.

In formal situations, it is generally better to include *whom*.

SKILLS FOCUS

Use case forms of personal pronouns correctly.