

English A1 · Pronouns and possessives

Beginner English for Chinese speakers; classroom examples, not official exam items.

Work uniform and weekend clothes

A pronoun is the same person in different clothes: one shape for doing, one for receiving, two for owning.

The doers

Person	Singular	Plural
first — the speaker	I	we
second — the listener	you	you
third — everyone else	he / she / it	they

Use the evidence

you is both singular and plural; English threw away the difference centuries ago.

The receivers change clothes

Subject	Object	Example
I	me	She helps me.
he / she	him / her	I see him. I see her.
we / they	us / them	They call us.

Use the evidence

you and it never change. Lucky words.

After a preposition, the object shape

- 1 **The rule** After a preposition (with, for, to, between), use the object shape.
- 2 **Right** Come with me. This gift is for her.
- 3 **The famous trap** between you and me — never between you and I.

Decision

Preposition plus object shape, every time.

Your turn: pick the receiver

Your turn

My sister helps ____ with maths every day.

- A. I
- B. me
- C. my
- D. mine

Two ways to own a book

Owner	Before a noun	Standing alone
I	my	mine
you	your	yours
he / she	his / her	his / hers
we / they	our / their	ours / theirs

Use the evidence

The adjective needs a noun after it; the pronoun already carries the noun inside.

Collision table: my or mine

Correct pairs

my book · the book is mine

her bag · the bag is hers

Impossible pairs

mine book · the book is my

hers bag · the bag is her

Your turn: bodyguard or pronoun

Your turn

This is ____ pen. It is ____.

- A. my ... mine
- B. mine ... my
- C. my ... my
- D. mine ... mine

One sound, three words

The tā problem

, , — in speech, all three are tā.

English forces the choice out loud: he, she or it.

The owner decides, not the object

- 1 **The question** Whose book? Look at the owner, not the book.
- 2 **He owns it** — his book.
- 3 **She owns it** — her book.

Decision

The possessive follows the owner's gender; the book has no opinion.

Your turn: the invisible subject

Your turn

— how does English say it?

- A. Is raining.
- B. It is raining.
- C. Rains.
- D. The sky is raining.

Say it aloud

My name is ..., and this bag is mine.



She is my friend. I sit next to her.



They are my classmates. I study with them.



The cat is cute. Its tail is long.

Check yourself

- ____ am a student. — I: the doer shape, always a capital letter.
- She helps ____ every day. — me: I receive the action.
- This is ____ book; it is _____. — my, then mine: bodyguard, then pronoun.
- Between you and ____? — me: after a preposition, the object shape.