Grammatical Sentences

Pronouns
Pronouns and antecedents

- **Pronoun**: word that takes the place of a noun

- **Antecedent**: The noun or pronoun the pronoun takes the place of
All pronouns must clearly reference their antecedents and appropriately express number, person, gender, and case.
Vague uses of personal pronouns: they

- They say the present economic trends will continue for years.
- Economists say the present economic trends will continue for years.
Vague uses of personal pronouns: you

- In England, you must drive on the left side of the road.
- In England, motorists must drive on the left side of the road.
Vague uses of personal pronouns: it

Although the team members played very well, they lost the game. It was because of the referees.
Vague uses of relative pronouns or demonstrative pronouns

- Inexperienced writers often discount the value of revision; *this* is because they see writing as only inspiration, not craft.

- I am a punctual person; *that* should be enough for a raise.

- The book our instructor assigned was very boring *which* is why I am not reading it.
Pronouns must agree with their antecedents in person, number and gender.
Person

- First person: person speaking
  - I, me, we, us, my, mine, our, ours

- Second person: Person spoken to
  - You, your

- Third person: person spoken about
  - She, he, it, her, him, they, them, hers, his, their, theirs
Our mother started planning our trip in May; you first must decide on a route.
Number

- A pronoun must agree with its antecedent in number.
- Singular antecedent - singular pronoun
- Plural antecedent - plural pronoun
Number

- Each of the students finished their revision.
- Each of the students finished his, her revision.
- All of the students finished their revisions.
Number

- Collective nouns are singular unless the group members are referenced as individuals.
- The faculty finished its meeting.
Gender

- Jennifer finished her law degree in March.
- A doctor must be conscious of his bedside manner.
Relative pronouns

- Use who, whom, whose for people
- The man **which** sold me the car has found a new job.
Relative Pronouns

- Use which for things (non-restrictive references)
- Hockey, which is Canada’s favorite sport, also has a large following in the United States.
- Use that for restrictive groups and things.
- The car that was left in the parking lot belongs to my uncle.
Pronoun case

- Subjective or nominative form
  - I, we, you, he, she, it, they, who
  - Subject of the sentence
  - They will all receive an award.
  - Orville and me were named to the committee.
- Subjective complement or predicate nominative
  - I am he.
Pronoun case

- Objective case
- Me, us, you, him, her, it, them, whom
- Object of a verb or a preposition
- Sam gave **him** the money.
- Mary has often been seen with **him**.
Elliptical constructions

☐ Fill in the missing words to determine case.

☐ I am taller than___________. 