

16: Which Pronoun?

Pronouns (words that take the place of nouns like **me, I, he, she, him, her, you, we, us, they, them**) are frequently misused. **One place where this happens frequently is after the word THAN:**

Katherine is better at complaining **than me**.

INCORRECT.

Katherine is better at complaining **than I (am)**.

CORRECT

This is because you're really saying she is better at complaining **than I am**. You couldn't say "better at complaining than me am." If you think about missing words, it's easy to do this correctly.

Her Majesty knows more about history **than them**.

INCORRECT

Her Majesty knows more about history **than they (do)**.

CORRECT

Her Majesty knows more about history **than** anyone.

CORRECT (in every sense)

Another frequent pronoun problem particularly involves me vs. I.

Always use I (and he, she, we and they) as a subject. (I am going to the store).

Always use me (and him, her, us and them) as an object. (Give that cookie to me.)

The problem arises when there is more than one object because you were taught to say "Sophia and I are going to the store" rather than "Sophia and me are going to the store," which is correct because "Sophia and I" is the *subject*.

However, things change when the same phrase is the object. (Give those cookies to Sophia and me.)

A simple check in these sentences is to leave out the other part of the object: (Give that cookie to me.)

"Sophia and" doesn't change which pronoun is used.

Eva and me want to shoot some hoops.

INCORRECT

Eva and I want to shoot some hoops.

CORRECT

Grace gave candy to **Carolyn and I**.

INCORRECT

Grace gave candy to **Carolyn and me**.

CORRECT

Carolyn is nicer **than we (are)**.

CORRECT

Cesar recited Shakespeare to **him and me**.

CORRECT

1. Looking back on the holidays im real glad that my parents gave great presents to my sister and I.
2. My sisters presents were suprisingly nice and she is enjoying a new sweater skiing and some great DVD's.
3. While she likes her presents shes definatly not as thrilled about my parents presents as me.
4. Im happy about my sisters gifts but Im a bit embarrassed that I recieved more presents then her.
5. My sister and me have decided to share our presents since that increases the amount we both can enjoy.
6. Among the things Katies looking forward to in January are MLK Day playing football and watching the playoffs.
7. Im all ready real far ahead in my classes but Saylor and Sophia are weeks ahead so Im not in as good shape as them.
8. If youre a senior you should be finishing up youre requirements and college applications before its to late.
9. Students that dont get help on theyre senior essay watches those that do get help pass much sooner then them.
10. If you havent passed youre essay yet it would be real smart to find a teacher to work on it with before its to late.
11. Matthew and me have forgotten that midterm is coming up real soon so we might be in trouble if we dont get to work.
12. Idalis friend is bragging about his new girlfriend but we all know that no one has less dates then him.
13. With Valentines Day less then a month away its time for us to find Idalis friend a women that wont dis him.
14. Whatever you might think of Phil its real clear theirs no one that can tell as many funny stories as him.
15. Were in big trouble because Her Majesty has demanded to see Guhan and I right away and thats real scary.