

AMA Manual of Style

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Pronouns

Stacy Christiansen

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Item type: section

Pronouns replace nouns. In this replacement, the antecedent must be clear and the pronoun must agree with the antecedent in number and gender. Note: The possessive pronoun *its* should not be confused with the contraction *it's* (see also , Punctuation, Apostrophe, Possessive Pronouns). | Care must be taken to use the correct case of personal pronouns: subjective (the pronoun is the subject of the phrase or clause) or objective (the pronoun is the object of the phrase or clause). She was assigned to the active intervention group. (She is the subject.) Collect all the samples and give them to her. (Her is

Personal Pronouns

Stacy Christiansen

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Care must be taken to use the correct case of personal pronouns: subjective (the pronoun is the subject of the phrase or clause) or objective (the pronoun is the object of the phrase or clause). She was assigned to the active intervention group. (She is the subject.) Collect all the samples and give them to her. (Her is the object.) Your decision affects him and me. (Both him and me are objects.) Do not substitute a reflexive pronoun, ending in *-self* or *-selves*, for a simple personal pronoun. |

Relative Pronouns

Stacy Christiansen

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Relative pronouns (*who*, *whom*, *whose*, *that*, and *which*) introduce a qualifying clause. *Who* is used as a subject and *whom* as an object. The examples below illustrate correct usage. Give the award to whomever you prefer. [Objective case: *whomever* is the object of the verb *prefer*.] Give the award to whoever will benefit most. [Subjective case: *whoever* is

the subject of will benefit.] Whom did you consult? [Objective case: whom is the object of consult.] Who was the consultant on this case? [Subjective case: who is the subject of the sentence.] He is one of the patients whom Dr Rundle is

Indefinite Pronouns

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Indefinite pronouns refer to nonspecific persons or things. Most indefinite pronouns express the idea of quantity and share properties of collective nouns (see , Subject-Verb Agreement, Collective Nouns). Some indefinite pronouns (eg, each, either, neither, one, no one, everyone, someone, anybody, nobody, somebody) always take singular verbs; some (eg, several, few, both, many) always take the plural; and some (eg, some, any, none, all, and most) may take either the singular or the plural, depending on the referents. In the last case, usually the best choice is to use the singular verb when the pronoun refers to a singular word