

“I” OR “ME”
A grammar play
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“I” is a nominative pronoun and is used as a subject of a sentence or clause.

“Me” is an objective pronoun and used as an object.

Setting: English Class

Characters:

Narrator

Mr. Clark, the English teacher

Jessica, Jerry, Larry, Angie, students

Narrator: Class was about to begin. Mr. Clark was busy writing sentences on the white board while the students were taking their seats.

Jessica: (whispering) I sure hope Mr. Clark doesn't teach us about those “I” and “me” pronouns. I always get them mixed up.

Jerry: (whispering) I know. Sometimes neither one sounds right.

Mr. Clark: Good morning, class. Today we're going to learn a trick about when to use the pronoun “I” and the pronoun “me”. (The class softly groans) Now this won't work for all sentences but it will help the ones we'll be studying today: pronouns in the objective position.

Jessica and Jerry: (whispering) Oh, no!

Mr. Clark: What, Jessica? Is there a problem?

Jessica: Well, I get “I” and “me” mixed up.

Mr. Clark: Jerry, do you have problems, too? Well, don't be upset because *most people* have the same problem. Now, let's begin. Larry, would you read the top sentence on the board.

Larry: “Will you explain that to John and I?” (The class laughs.)

Mr. Clark: Why did the class laugh, Larry?

Larry: It didn't sound right.

Mr. Clark: That's true, but you can't always count on what you hear to make the correct choice. So listen carefully. The words “John and I” are in the *objective position*. Here comes the trick to know whether to use “I” or “me”. By

removing “John” from the sentence, you will know which pronoun to use. Let’s try it. Angie, read sentence two.

Angie: “Will you explain that to me?”

Mr. Clark: “Me” is correct. There are several reasons why “me” is correct. First, it is an objective pronoun in the objective position. Second, it sounds correct. Now let’s replace the word, “John” and keep “me” in the sentence. Vic, please read sentence three.

Vic: “Will you explain that to John and me?” (The class cheers.)

Mr. Clark: Correct! Class, here’s a page of sentences for you to correct. You have five minutes to complete them. You may work with a partner. Ready? Begin.

Narrator: Time passed quickly, but the students caught on to the idea. Soon hands were flying, eager to call out the correct answers.

Mr. Clark: Time’s up! Let’s see how smart you are! Jessica, number 1.

Jessica: “Leave the work to Judy and I.” This is incorrect.
“Leave the work to me.” This is correct when we left out “Judy”.
“Leave the work to Judy and me.” This is correct.

Mr. Clark: Jerry, number 6.

Jerry: “Join Jack and I for the big parade.” This is incorrect.
“Join me for the big parade.” This is correct when we left out “Jack”.
“Join Jack and me for the big parade.” This is correct.

Mr. Clark: Class, we only have time for one more. Who’s ready? Vic? Read 10.

Vic: “It’s just between you and I.” This is incorrect.
“It’s just between you and me.” This is correct.

Mr. Clark: This is a tricky one. Can anyone tell us why this sentence is different from the other sentences. Larry?

Larry: Because there are two objective pronouns, you and me. “I” is a nominative pronoun and can’t be used in the objective position. Therefore, we have to use “me.” So, “It’s just between you and me” is correct.

Mr. Clark: Excellent work, Class. Turn in your papers. Tomorrow, we’ll continue to work with pronouns in the nominative position.