Subject & Object Pronouns

An English sentence has a subject and a verb. Look at the following sentences.

S V
The sun shines.
(noun) (verb)

S V
Plants grow.
(noun) (verb)

Sometimes a verb is followed by an object. The object of a verb is another noun or a pronoun. Look at the following sentences.

S V O
Plants need water.
(noun) (verb) (noun)

S V O
Bob is reading a book.
(noun) (verb) (noun)

English uses subject pronouns as the subjects of sentences and object pronouns as the object of a sentence. Look at the following chart.

6-10 PERSONAL PRONOUNS: SUBJECTS AND OBJECTS

PERSONAL PRONOUNS

SUBJECT PRONOUNS:	*I*	*we*	*you*	*he, she, it*	*they*
OBJECT PRONOUNS:	*me*	*us*	*you*	*him, her, it*	*them*

(a) ***Kate*** is married. ***She*** has two children. (S)	A pronoun refers to a noun. In (a): ***she*** is a pronoun; it refers to ***Kate***. In (b): ***her*** is a pronoun; it refers to ***Kate***. ***She*** is a subject pronoun; ***her*** is an object pronoun.
(b) ***Kate*** is my friend. I know ***her*** well. (O)	
(c) Mike has ***a new blue bicycle***. He bought ***it*** yesterday.	A pronoun can refer to a single noun (e.g., *Kate*) or to a noun phrase. In (c): ***it*** refers to the whole noun phrase *a new blue bicycle*.
(d) *Eric and **I*** are good friends. (S)	Guidelines for using pronouns following ***and:*** If the pronoun is used as part of the subject, use a subject pronoun, as in (d). If it is part of the object, use an object pronoun, as in (e) and (f). *INCORRECT: Eric and me are good friends.* *INCORRECT: Ann met Eric and I at the museum.*
(e) Ann met *Eric and **me*** at the museum. (O)	
(f) Ann walked between *Eric and **me***. (O of PREP)	

SINGULAR PRONOUNS:	***I***	***me***	***you***	***he, she, it***	***him, her***
PLURAL PRONOUNS:	***we***	***us***	***you***	***they***	***them***

(g) ***Mike*** is in class. ***He*** is taking a test.	*Singular* = one. *Plural* = more than one. Singular pronouns refer to singular nouns, plural pronouns to plural nouns, as in the examples.
(h) The ***students*** are in class. ***They*** are taking a test.	
(i) ***Kate and Tom*** are married. ***They*** have two children.	

You are already familiar with the subject pronouns. Now, you must practice the object pronouns: *me, you, him, her, it, us, them*.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Let's practice. First identify the objects in the following sentences. Write the object in the space to the right. There is one example.

Sentence	Object
Sue lost her ring at the beach.	her ring
John took many photographs of the Eiffel Tower.	
Emily met her boyfriend at the restaurant.	
The captain sailed the boat around the world.	
Peter kissed Rachael.	
The boss punished his employees.	
I received a sweater for Christmas.	
The shoe fit Cinderella's foot.	
The dog bites the postman every time he delivers the mail.	
The children brought soccer balls to the park.	
I found your keys under the sofa.	
Everyone knows Maradona.	
Jeremy invited Mary to the party.	

Now, choose the correct pronoun to complete these sentences. To decide, ask yourself if the pronoun is functioning as the subject of the sentence or the object of the verb.

1. What time should I call _____ ?
2. Do you like my new glasses. Yes, _____ love _____ .
3. Please call _____ soon. _____ am very worried.
4. Look! It's Shakira. Can you see _____ ?
5. Please tell Mike that _____ can meet _____ at 8pm.
6. Our son is away at university, but _____ call _____ every day.
7. Here are the reports. Give _____ to Carmen.
8. Your dog bit _____ !
9. Paul is so mean. _____ hate _____ !
10. I thought Julie was angry at Sarah and me, but _____ invited _____ to her party.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Replace the underlined words with the correct pronouns.

I can't find my keys. ⇒ I can't find _____ .

Jeff feeds the dogs. ⇒ _____ helps _____ .

I need to tell John the truth. ⇒ I need to tell _____ the truth.

My dad and I love chocolate. ⇒ _____ love _____ .

Our new neighbors thanked my husband and me. ⇒ _____ thanked _____ .

I like reading books. ⇒ I like reading _____ .

Tom often plays football with my friends and me . ⇒ _____ often plays football with _____ .

I need the scissors to cut the paper. ⇒ I need _____ to cut _____.

Susan needs help. Jack and I have to help Susan. ⇒ _____ have to help _____.

In English, prepositions are always followed by nouns or pronouns. When using pronouns in prepositional phrases, an object pronoun must be used. The following chart lists the most common prepositions.

6-4 OBJECTS OF PREPOSITIONS

S V O PREP O OF PREP
(a) Ann put her books *on* *the* ***desk***.
(noun)

S V PREP O OF PREP
(b) A leaf fell *to* *the* ***ground***.
(noun)

Many English sentences have prepositional phrases. In (a): *on the desk* is a prepositional phrase. A prepositional phrase consists of a PREPOSITION (PREP) and an OBJECT OF A PREPOSITION (O OF PREP). The object of a preposition is a NOUN.

REFERENCE LIST OF PREPOSITIONS

about	*before*	*despite*	*of*	*to*
above	*behind*	*down*	*off*	*toward(s)*
across	*below*	*during*	*on*	*under*
after	*beneath*	*for*	*out*	*until*
against	*beside*	*from*	*over*	*up*
along	*besides*	*in*	*since*	*upon*
among	*between*	*into*	*through*	*with*
around	*beyond*	*like*	*throughout*	*within*
at	*by*	*near*	*till*	*without*

LIVEWORKSHEETS

In the following exercise, choose the correct pronoun to complete the sentence.

1. Nick ate dinner with **I / me** .
2. Betsy and **I / me** ate dinner with Nick last night.
3. Please take this food and give **it / them** to the dog.
4. My brother drove Emily and **I / me** to the mall. He waited for **we / us** in the car, so **we / us** hurried.
5. Mrs. Lee wrote a note on my exam. **She / her** wanted to talk to **I / me**.
6. Between you and **I / me**, I think Ivan made a mistake when **he / him** quit his job.
7. Give a copy of the report to each of **they / them**.
8. Can you return to **I / me** the money that you borrowed?
9. If you want tickets to the game, you should buy **it / them** quickly. **It / They** are selling fast.
10. Tom borrowed my books. **He / Him** returned **they / them** to **I / me** yesterday.

LIVEWORKSHEETS