

Steps to Good Grammar

169 Lessons, Exercises, and Tests

by Genevieve Walberg Schaefer



CONTENTS

<i>Introduction</i>	v
<i>Using the Materials</i>	vii
Unit 1: Verbs	2
Unit 2: Nouns	16
REVIEW QUIZ: Recognizing Verbs and Nouns	26
Unit 3: The Basic Sentence	28
Unit 4: Adjectives	32
REVIEW, TEST: Verbs, Subjects, and Adjectives	39
Unit 5: Adverbs	46
REVIEW, TEST: Verbs, Subjects, Adjectives, and Adverbs	54
Unit 6: Pronouns Used as Subjects	58
Unit 7: Direct Objects — Nouns	70
Unit 8: Written Expression	80
Unit 9: Direct Objects — Pronouns	98
Unit 10: Prepositional Phrases	104
Unit 11: Pronouns as Objects of Prepositions	112
Unit 12: Indirect Objects — Nouns	118
Unit 13: Indirect Objects — Pronouns	130
Unit 14: Appositives	136
Unit 15: Noun of Direct Address	148
Unit 16: Linking Verbs	152
Unit 17: Pronoun Linking Verb Complements	168
Unit 18: Pronoun Review	176
Unit 19: Correct Usage — Pronouns	186
Unit 20: Correct Usage — Regular Verbs	208
Unit 21: Correct Usage — Irregular Verbs	220
Unit 22: Correct Usage — Adjectives	250
Unit 23: Correct Usage — Adverbs	262
Unit 24: Correct Usage — Capital Letters	274
Unit 25: Correct Usage — Punctuation	286

PRONOUNS USED AS LINKING VERB COMPLEMENTS

Nominative pronouns are grammatically prescribed, especially in formal writing, after forms of the verb *be*: *is, am, are, was, were, be, being, been*:

This is she. It was I. It must have been they.

About this usage of pronouns, more than any other, students will say, "It doesn't sound right!" So when working through this page with your class, be sure to have students read the sample and drill sentences aloud to reinforce the sound of correct usage.

The word *nominative* implies "has to do with the subject." Nominative pronouns used as LVCs "have to do" with the subject in that they refer back to the subject — can be used in place of the subject.

Emphasize item 3 in Remember; remind students about 4 and 5.

Work with the students as they rewrite the Practice sentences. Have students read correctly completed sentences aloud.

1. Ronnie ^{LV} was ^{LVC-N} a winner. He ^{LV} was ^{LVC-N} a winner. The winners ^{LV} were ^{LVC-N} Ronnie and she ^{LVC-N}.
2. We ^{LV} couldn't ^{LVC-N} be ^{LVC-N} the losers. They ^{LV} couldn't ^{LVC-N} be ^{LVC-N} the losers. The losers ^{LV} couldn't ^{LVC-N} be ^{LVC-N} they or we ^{LVC-N}.
3. You and they ^{LV} were ^{LVC-N} top ^{LVC-N} scorers. Top scorers ^{LV} were ^{LVC-N} you and they ^{LVC-N}.
4. He ^{LV} was ^{LVC-N} a guard. I ^{LV} was ^{LVC-N} a guard. The guards ^{LV} were ^{LVC-N} he and I ^{LVC-N}.
5. Ellen and she ^{LV} were ^{LVC-N} [probably] the ^{LVC-N} noisiest. The noisiest ^{LV} were ^{LVC-N} [probably] Ellen and she ^{LVC-N}.

PRONOUN LINKING VERB COMPLEMENTS

Pronouns Used as Linking Verb Complements

KNOW:

1. **Linking Verbs (LVs)** are:

IS AM ARE WAS WERE BE BEING BEEN

2. A sentence with an LV requires a **linking verb complement (LVC)**.
3. In a sentence with an LV, the subject and the LVC can trade places and the meaning remains the same:

^{LV} was ^{LVC-N} the winner. ^{LVC-N} The winner ^{LV} was ^{LVC-N} Joey.
^{LV} was ^{LVC-N} the winner. ^{LVC-N} The winner ^{LV} was ^{LVC-N} he. (Label pronouns LVCs LVC-N.)

4. *Subjective* (nominative) pronouns are used as LVCs and as subjects:

I YOU HE SHE WE THEY

5. Remember **polite order** in using pronouns in compound LVCs: (first — *you*; second — *he, she, they*, or *nouns*; last — *I, we*).

TO BE SURE that you are using the correct pronoun in the LVC position, turn the sentence around, as in the examples above, and say the pronouns separately with the verb:

The captains will be (he, him) and (me, I).

Obviously incorrect: *Him* will be . . . *Me* will be . . .

Obviously correct: **He** will be . . . **I** will be . . .

^{LV} The ^{LVC-N} captains ^{LV} will be ^{LVC-N} he and I.

PRACTICE: In the sentences below, mark: complete verbs, subjects, adjectives, adverbs label: LV, LVC-N. In the blanks, write the nouns and/or pronouns to form the linking verb complement.

1. Ronnie was a winner. He was a winner. The winners were _____ and _____.
2. We couldn't be the losers. They couldn't be the losers. The losers couldn't be _____ or _____.
3. You and they were top scorers. Top scorers were _____ and _____.
4. He was a guard. I was a guard. The guards were _____ and _____.
5. Ellen and she were probably the noisiest. The noisiest were probably _____ and _____.

USING PRONOUNS AS LVCs — PRACTICE

Occasionally, as students are selecting the correct LVC pronouns, instruct them to reverse the sentence, using the pronouns as the subject. This may help to establish the “right sound.”

Also, as in the previous introductory drill, be sure to have students read correctly completed sentences aloud to reinforce the sound of correct usage.

1. The most surprised people were they and we. (them, they) (us, we)
2. The best players have always been you and he. (he, him) (you)
3. The pranksters might have been they. (them, they)
4. The team's captain is he. (him, he)
5. Could the winner be she? (her, she)
6. The new assistants will be Trish or I. (I, me) (Trish)
7. The Most Valuable Player will probably be you or Lex. (Lex) (you)
8. Are the only guests they and we? (we, us) (they, them)
9. The newly elected officers are you, Sherry, and I. (me, I) (Sherry) (you)
10. The contest winners were he and she. (he, him) (her, she)
11. The doubles finalists were they and we. (us, we) (them, they)
12. The last three speakers will be you, Jean, and I. (Jean) (me, I) (you)
13. The noisy students certainly weren't he and I. (me, I) (he, him)
14. The only volunteers were she, Mike, and I. (her, she) (Mike) (me, I).
15. Could the mystery person be he? (him, he)
16. Was the principal's choice they or we? (we, us) (them, they)
17. Aren't the best students she and he? (her, she) (him, he)
18. Three lucky teenagers are you, Lynn, and I. (Lynn) (me, I) (you)
19. Unfortunately, the loser was I! (me, I)
20. Were the award recipients you, Lars, and I? (me, I) (Lars) (you)

PRONOUN LINKING VERB COMPLEMENTS

Using pronouns as LVCs — Practice

Instructions: Mark: complete verbs, subjects, adjectives [adverbs] label: LV, LVC-N. In the blanks, using the words in parentheses, write the correct LVC pronouns in polite order.

1. The most surprised people were _____ and _____. (them, they) (us, we)
2. The best players have always been _____ and _____. (he, him) (you)
3. The pranksters might have been _____. (them, they)
4. The team's captain is _____. (him, he)
5. Could the winner be _____? (her, she)
6. The new assistants will be _____ or _____. (I, me) (Trish)
7. The Most Valuable Player will probably be _____ or _____. (Lex) (you)
8. Are the only guests _____ and _____? (we, us) (they, them)
9. The newly elected officers are _____, _____, and _____. (me, I) (Sherry) (you)
10. The contest winners were _____ and _____. (he, him) (her, she)
11. The doubles finalists were _____ and _____. (us, we) (them, they)
12. The last three speakers will be _____, _____, and _____. (Jean) (me, I) (you)
13. The noisy students certainly weren't _____ and _____. (me, I) (he, him)
14. The only volunteers were _____, _____, and _____. (her, she) (Mike) (me, I).
15. Could the mystery person be _____? (him, he)
16. Was the principal's choice _____ or _____? (we, us) (them, they)
17. Aren't the best students _____ and _____? (her, she) (him, he)
18. Three lucky teenagers are _____, _____, and _____. (Lynn) (me, I) (you)
19. Unfortunately, the loser was _____! (me, I)
20. Were the award recipients _____, _____, and _____? (me, I) (Lars) (you)

REVIEW DRILL AND FINAL DRILL

You will need one copy of this page for each student. The top half is a review drill; the bottom half is a final drill.

The test on the next page includes nominative pronouns used as subjects and as linking verb complements.

Therefore, this review drill allows students to review subject pronouns.

The final drill requires students to recognize and use nominative pronouns in both subject and LVC-N positions.

1. Melinda and I were [there] [early] (me, I) (Melinda)
 2. Could they and we stay [here]? (we, us) (they, them)
 3. You, he, and I should listen [more] [carefully] (me, I) (he, him) (you)
 4. [Frequently] my brother and I arrive [early] (me, I) (my brother)
 5. They and we were appointed. (them, they) (we, us)
 6. She and I have been excused. (I, me) (her, she)
 7. Can you and she leave [right] [now]? (you) (her, she)
 8. Sara, he, and I have agreed [completely]. (Sara) (him, he) (me, I)
 9. Have you and they volunteered? (them, they) (you)
 10. [Suddenly] he and she ran [in] and sat [down] (he, him) (her, she)
-
1. [Why] must you and I leave [so] [soon]? (me, I) (you)
 2. Are the new officers you, Paul, and I? (me, I) (Paul) (you)
 3. The doubles finalists are they and we. (them, they) (us, we)
 4. They and we have been working [very] [hard] (us, we) (they, them)
 5. [Actually], we students seldom work [too] [hard] (us, we)
 6. (As usual) the only volunteers were he, she, and I. (me, I) (he, him) (her, she)
 7. Neither you nor he were winners. (he, him) (you)
 8. The noisy students were [n't] she and he. (him, he) (she, her)
 9. Will they or he be working? (them, they) (he, him)
 10. [Probably] you, she, and I should leave [soon]. (she, her) (you) (me, I)

PRONOUN LINKING VERB COMPLEMENTS

REVIEW DRILL: Pronouns Used As Subjects

Instructions: Mark: verbs, [adverbs] In the blanks, using the words in parentheses, write the correct subject words in polite order. Remember, subject pronouns are the same as LVC pronouns.

- _____ and _____ were there early. (me, I) (Melinda)
- Could _____ and _____ stay here? (we, us) (they, them)
- _____, _____, and _____ should listen more carefully. (me, I) (he, him) (you)
- Frequently _____ and _____ arrive early. (me, I) (my brother)
- _____ and _____ were appointed. (them, they) (we, us)
- _____ and _____ have been excused. (I, me) (her, she)
- Can _____ and _____ leave right now? (you) (her, she)
- _____, _____, and _____ have agreed completely. (Sara) (him, he) (me, I)
- Have _____ and _____ volunteered? (them, they) (you)
- Suddenly, _____ and _____ ran in and sat down. (he, him) (her, she)

PRONOUN LINKING VERB COMPLEMENTS

FINAL DRILL: Pronouns Used As Subjects and LVCs

Instructions: Mark: complete verbs, (adjectives), [adverbs], [prep. phrases] label: LV, LVC-N, prep., O.P., appos. In the blanks, using the words in parentheses, write the correct subject/LVC words in polite order.

- Why must _____ and _____ leave so soon? (me, I) (you)
- Are the new officers _____, _____, and _____? (me, I) (Paul) (you)
- The doubles finalists are _____ and _____. (them, they) (us, we)
- _____ and _____ have been working very hard. (us, we) (they, them)
- Actually, _____ students seldom work too hard. (us, we)
- As usual, the only volunteers were _____, _____, and _____. (me, I) (he, him) (her, she)
- Neither _____ nor _____ were winners. (he, him) (you)
- The noisy students weren't _____ and _____. (him, he) (she, her)
- Will _____ or _____ be working? (them, they) (he, him)
- Probably _____, _____, and _____ should leave soon. (she, her) (you) (me, I)

TEST

This reproducible page contains two copies of one half-page drill/test. Cut each duplicated page in half; give each student one half-page.

Grading scale

-1, 97	-7, 77
-2, 93	-8, 73
-3, 90	-9, 70
-4, 87	-10, 67
-5, 83	-11, 63
-6, 80	-12, 60

Suggested grading:

Grading pronoun choice and order:

Sentence	Choice	Order	Points
1	2	1	3
2	2	1	3
3	2	1	3
4	2	1	3
5	1	0	1
6	1	1	2
7	1	3	4
8	2	0	2
9	2	3	5
10	1	3	4

Sentence part identification:

- 1 point for each label above compound LVC-N
- 1 point for underlining each compound subject
- 1 point for underlining each complete verb
- 1 point for labeling each linking verb

Total points 55

See page 116 for grading scale.

30

1. The doubles finalists will [probably] be they and we. (us, we) (they, them)
2. You, he and she are [never] tardy. (he, him) (her, she) (you)
3. The newly elected officers are he and I. (I, me) (he, him)
4. They and we have been swimming. (us, we) (them, they)
5. Do we students [ever] work [too] hard? (we, us)
6. The losers were you and they. (you) (them, they)
7. Are the squad captains you, Paul, and I? (Paul) (I, me) (you)
8. The most accomplished students are he and she. (he, him) (her, she)
9. [Probably] you, he, and I should leave [soon]. (me, I) (he, him) (you)
10. [Incidentally] you, Amy, and I are the contest winners! (Amy) (you) (me, I)

PRONOUN LINKING VERB COMPLEMENTS

TEST: Pronouns Used As Subjects and LVCs

Instructions: Mark: complete verbs, subjects, adjectives, [adverbs] label: LV, LVC-N, LVC-A, appos. In the blanks, using the words in parentheses, write the correct subject/LVC pronouns in polite order.

- The doubles finalists will probably be _____ and _____. (us, we) (they, them)
- _____, _____, and _____ are never tardy. (he, him) (her, she) (you)
- The newly elected officers are _____ and _____. (I, me) (he, him)
- _____ and _____ have been swimming. (us, we) (them, they)
- Do _____ students ever work too hard? (we, us)
- The losers were _____ and _____. (you) (them, they)
- Are the squad captains _____, _____, and _____? (Paul) (I, me) (you)
- The most accomplished students are _____ and _____. (he, him) (her, she)
- Probably _____, _____, and _____ should leave soon. (me, I) (he, him) (you)
- Incidentally, _____, _____, and _____ are the contest winners! (Amy) (you) (me, I)

PRONOUN LINKING VERB COMPLEMENTS

TEST: Pronouns Used As Subjects and LVCs

Instructions: Mark: complete verbs, subjects, adjectives, [adverbs] label: LV, LVC-N, LVC-A, appos. In the blanks, using the words in parentheses, write the correct subject/LVC pronouns in polite order.

- The doubles finalists will probably be _____ and _____. (us, we) (they, them)
- _____, _____, and _____ are never tardy. (he, him) (her, she) (you)
- The newly elected officers are _____ and _____. (I, me) (he, him)
- _____ and _____ have been swimming. (us, we) (them, they)
- Do _____ students ever work too hard? (we, us)
- The losers were _____ and _____. (you) (them, they)
- Are the squad captains _____, _____, and _____? (Paul) (I, me) (you)
- The most accomplished students are _____ and _____. (he, him) (her, she)
- Probably _____, _____, and _____ should leave soon. (me, I) (he, him) (you)
- Incidentally, _____, _____, and _____ are the contest winners! (Amy) (you) (me, I)

