GRAMMAR · LEVEL A1

Subject & Object Pronouns

Who does the action, and who receives it

1 The basic rule

Ask one question: **Does this person do the action, or receive it?** subject = does it. object = receives it.

	Subject · does the action	Object · receives the action
One person (singular)	**she** — **She** calls Tom every day. 	**her** — Tom calls **her** too. 
More than one (plural)	**they** — **They** play football on Sundays. 	**them** — I often watch **them** play. 

Before or after the verb? Subject pronouns usually come **before** the verb: ***He*** *likes pizza.* Object pronouns come **after** the verb or a preposition: *I like* ***him****. Come with* ***me****.*

2 The full list

Each subject pronoun has a partner object pronoun. Only you and it stay the same.

Person	Subject	Object	Examples
1st person singular	I	me	**I** know. / Can you help **me**?
2nd person	you	you	**You** are late. / I'll call **you**.
3rd person (man)	he	him	**He** is my brother. / I like **him**.
3rd person (woman)	she	her	**She** works here. / Ask **her**.
3rd person (thing)	it	it	**It** is new. / I bought **it**.
1st person plural	we	us	**We** live here. / Visit **us**!
3rd person plural	they	them	**They** are nice. / I know **them**.

Tip for French speakers: **you** = *tu, vous, te, toi*: one word for all of them! And **it** has no gender: for things, *il* and *elle* are both **it**: *La table ? Je* ***l'****ai achetée hier = I bought* ***it*** *yesterday.*

Careful with they / them: they are for **people and things**: *I love these shoes. I wear* ***them*** *every day.*

3 After prepositions

After a preposition (*for, with, to, about, between...*) always use an **object** pronoun.

✓ Correct	× Avoid
This present is for **me**.	~~This present is for I.~~
Come with **us**!	~~Come with we!~~
It's a secret between you and **me**.	~~between you and I~~
Tom and I went to the cinema. *(subject)*	~~Me and Tom went~~ *(too informal for writing)*

Short answers: in everyday English, use the object pronoun on its own: *"Who wants coffee?"* ***"Me!"*** / *"I'm hungry."* ***"Me too!"***

4 Useful fixed expressions

Learn these as complete phrases:

Expression	When to use it
Me too!	Agreeing: it's the same for me
Excuse me.	Getting attention, or saying sorry
Let me think.	Taking a moment before you answer
Leave it to me.	Offering to do something yourself
It's up to you.	Letting someone else decide
Tell me about it!	I know exactly what you mean
See you!	Saying goodbye to a friend

5 Quick check before the exercise

For each gap, ask yourself three questions:

1 **Before or after the verb?**
Before → I, he, she
After → me, him, her

2 **After a preposition?**
for, with, to → object
*for **me**, with **us***

3 **Person or thing?**
A thing → it
Things or people → they / them