



I am he.

From Walt Whitman's *Leaves of Grass*:

	I	am	he	who	aches	of	amorous	love.
Parts of Speech	pron.	v.	pron.	pron.	v.	prep.	adj.	n.
Parts of Sentence	subj.	LVP	S.C.	subj.	AVP			
Phrases						-----prep. phrase-----		
Clauses	----indep. clause----				-----dependent clause-----			
					a complex declarative sentence			

In Whitman's sentence the **subject** pronoun *he* is used as the **subject** complement (S.C.). We will study subject complements and other parts of sentence soon, but for now, just notice that we change case from subject to object pronoun based on whether the part of sentence is a subject or an object. Note the spelling: *complement*, not *compliment*; a compliment is an expression of praise.

The song of the subjects, and the song of the objects: Sometimes we refer to other languages as *singsong*, yet English also has its music. We do not normally hear the musical qualities of English because it is so familiar, but when we listen closely, we can hear the songs. One of the most important is the difference between the bright sound of subject pronouns and the dull sound of object pronouns. These songs help us keep our ideas clear, even in spontaneous speech. If the subjects of sentences sound brighter, it is easy to spot them when words come rapidly.

I he she they we they
 eye-eee-eee-aye-eee-aye
 me him her them us them
 mmm-urrr-mmm-uhh-mmm



Possessive pronouns: A possessive pronoun such as *mine* is a pronoun that indicates possession. Possessive pronouns include *mine*, *yours*, *his*, *hers*, *theirs*, *its*, *ours*, *yours*, and *theirs*. **The possessive case pronouns, such as *its*, are already possessive and therefore do not have apostrophes.** *Mine* was free. *Hers* was expensive. Notice that there is a singular *yours* and *theirs* and a plural *yours* and *theirs*.

Possessive adjectives: We will examine possessive adjectives when we discuss adjectives, but for now be aware that the words *my*, *your*, *his*, *her*, *their*, *its*, *our*, *your*, and *their* are possessive adjectives, not possessive pronouns. They resemble possessive pronouns, but they modify rather than substitute for nouns. We can say *my book*, but we cannot say *My is blue*.

Possessive Pronouns

mine
yours
his, hers, theirs, its
ours
yours
theirs

Possessive Adjectives

my
your
his, her, their, its
our
your
their

***Its* or *it's*?** The word *its* is a possessive pronoun or a possessive adjective. The word *it's* is a contraction of *it* and *is*. The apostrophe replaces the missing *i*. *It's* too high to reach *its* perch. Do not use the apostrophe in a possessive pronoun or adjective. Wrong: *The dog lost it's bone*. That would mean "The dog lost it is bone"—nonsense. Again, *it's* is a contraction of *it is*.

Interrogative pronouns: An interrogative pronoun is just what **its** name suggests. **It's** a pronoun used to interrogate: *who*, *whose*, *whom*, *which*, *what*. **Who** recited the poem?

