



Me, Myself, and I

Me, myself and I are all first person singular pronouns that refer to the same person (you), but which word you choose depends on the context of the sentence. Remember, the basic design of a sentence is subject + verb + direct object.

Subject:

When you are the subject performing the action, use "I."

Example: **I** made cupcakes for the entire class.

Note: Even when there is someone with you performing the action, "I" is still correct: *Jane and I drove to the mall for lunch.* If you're not sure, write the sentence without "Jane," and you'll see that "I" is the right choice.

"I" isn't always "acting." Sometimes, you're expressing feeling or receiving the action.

Examples: **I** became bored watching you play *World of Warcraft*, because I wanted to play.
 I was given a coupon for a free iPod.

Predicate Nominative:

Admittedly, this one is rarely used correctly. In conversational English, the use of "I" following a linking verb sounds stilted. But if you aspire to proper, eloquent grammar, follow this rule: The correct pronoun to follow a linking verb is "I," or a predicate nominative.

Examples: It was **I** who called you.
 Who's there? It is **I**.

Direct Object:

The direct object is generally what "receives" the action of the verb. Nouns that receive the verb's action are considered to be in "objective case." The objective form of "I" is "me."

Example: Hank beat **me** in the race, but just wait until next time!

Me, Myself, and I (Continued)

Object of the preposition:

Nouns that follow prepositions are also considered to be in the objective cases. So the correct word to follow prepositions (*in, as, on, over, with, to, from, etc.*) is “*me*.”

Example: *Paul awarded first place to **me**.*

Reflexive Pronouns:

Reflexive pronouns are used as objects. They refer back to a noun already mentioned. They can also be used as an appositive (renaming another noun for emphasis). In either case, the correct reflexive pronoun to use is *myself* when you are referring back to yourself in a sentence in which you already used *I* or *me*.

Examples:

Reflexive Pronoun, Direct Object: *I accidentally hit **myself** on the head.*

Reflexive Pronoun, Indirect Object: *I give **myself** credit for sticking with my dreams.*

Reflexive Pronoun, Appositive: *The person who washed your car was not Billy: It was I **myself** who did it!*

Three at Once

In some sentences, it is possible to use all three pronouns.

Example: *If you ask **me**, **I** would say that, for **myself**, I would prefer to go to a Mexican restaurant.*