



**learning target**

Aim of this section is to learn the personal pronouns and their use in the four cases.

<u>personal pronoun</u> (as subject)	<u>verb</u>	<u>personal pronoun</u> (as object)
I	know	her.
you	know	her.
he/she/it	knows	her.
we	know	her.
you	know	her.
they	know	her.

**rules**

**in general**

The term personal comes from word person. We use the personal pronouns to talk about a person or thing. The term pronoun consists of the words pro (für) and noun (nomen) which means the pronouns stand for a person / thing and with their help the name of the noun can be replaced.

example: Catherine Estose Pacana is my girlfriend. She lives in Cagayan (instead of repeating the name again: Catherine Estose Pacana lives in Cagayan.)

**personal pronouns in nominative**

These pronouns are used to speak about a person / thing who does something or is something. The pronoun is the subject of the sentence.



- **ich:** you use when you speak about yourself
- **du:** you use when you speak to a single person (informal)
- **er:** you use when you speak about a male person or a thing with a male gender
- **sie:** you use when you speak about a female person or a thing with a female gender
- **es:** you use when you speak about a thing with a neutral gender
- **wir:** you use when you speak about several people yourself included
- **ihr:** you use when you speak to several people
- **sie:** you use when you speak about several people
- **Sie:** you use when you speak to a single person (formal)



There are two big differences between German and English:

- In German "er/sie" (he/she) is also used to describe dead things. Most dead things in German have a male or female gender.
- In German are two forms of "you". "Du" is used for family members, friends, children and other people who are close to the speaker. "Sie" is formal way to say you and is used for business partner, colleagues and other adults who are not close to the speaker.

### personal pronouns in dative and accusative

Here you can use the same explanation like in nominative. We speak again about a person / thing but in the dative and accusative the person / thing is not acting. It is the object of the sentence. Surely you will ask where is the difference between dative and accusative because in English there is just one case and not two. This is an own big topic and will be covered in the section "Die 4 Fälle".

- **mir / mich**: you use when somebody does something with you
- **dir / dich**: you use when you do something with a single person (informal)
- **ihm / ihn**: you use when somebody does something with a male person
- **ihr / sie**: you use when somebody does something with a female person
- **ihm / es**: you use when somebody does something with a dead thing
- **uns / uns**: you use when somebody does someth. with several people yourself included
- **euch / euch**: you use when somebody does something with several people
- **ihnen / sie**: you use when somebody does something with several people
- **Ihnen / Sie**: you use when you do something with a single person (formal)

### personal pronouns in genitive

The personal pronouns in genitive are not used to talk about the person but about what belongs to the person / about what possesses the person.

- **mein(e/er)**: you use to talk about things which belong to you
- **dein(e/er)**: you use to talk about things which belong to a single person (informal)
- **sein(e/er)**: you use to talk about things which belong to a male person
- **ihr(e/er)**: you use to talk about things which belong to a female person
- **sein(e/er)**: you use to talk about things which belong to a dead thing
- **unser(e)**: you use to talk about things which belong several people yourself included
- **euer(e)**: you use to talk about things which belong to several people
- **ihr(e/er)**: you use to talk about things which belong to several people
- **Ihr(e/er)**: you use to talk about things which belong to a single person (formal)

I put the endings in brackets because in the genitive case it depends on the gender which ending you have to use. This problem will be covered in the section "Possessivpronomen".



all personal pronouns

Person	Numerus	Geschlecht	Nominativ		Genitiv		Dativ		Akkusativ	
			Deutsch	Englisch	Deutsch	Englisch	Deutsch	Englisch	Deutsch	Englisch
1. Person	Singular	-	ich	I	mein(e/er)	my	mir	me	mich	me
2. Person	Singular	-	du	you	dein(e/er)	your	dir	you	dich	you
3. Person	Singular	männlich	er	he	sein(e/er)	his	ihm	him	ihn	him
3. Person	Singular	weiblich	sie	she	ihr(e/er)	her	ihr	her	sie	her
3. Person	Singular	sächlich	es	it	sein(e/er)	its	ihm	it	es	it
1. Person	Plural	-	wir	we	unser(e)	our	uns	us	uns	us
2. Person	Plural	-	ihr	you	euer(e)	your	euch	you	euch	you
3. Person	Plural	-	sie	they	ihr(e/er)	their	ihnen	them	sie	them
2. Person	Singular/Plural	-	Sie	you	Ihr(e/er)	your	Ihnen	you	Sie	you

- **1. Person:** pronouns of the 1st person refer to the speaker
- **2. Person:** pronouns of the 2nd person refer to the person you talk to
- **3. Person:** pronouns of the 3rd person refer to the person / thing you talk about