PRONOUNS are words that substitute for nouns, for example, *he* = John, *she* = Mary, *it* = dog.

*Common Pronouns:* I, me, we, us, my, mine, our, ourselves, you, your, yourself, someone, everyone, somebody, everybody, she, he, they, them, themselves, their, it, its, that, which, who, whom, whoever

**RULE 1:** Every pronoun has a referent it substitutes for.

*Examples:* Give it to Luu. ("it" = book, so "book" is the referent)  
Give the book to him. ("him" = Luu, so Luu is the referent)  
She gave it to him. ("She" = Mary (referent), "it" = book (referent), "him" = Luu (referent))

**RULE 2:** No pronoun has an apostrophe.

*Examples:* Its coat is rough. This one is his. Those cars are theirs.

**RULE 3:** These possessive pronouns CAN BE SUBJECTS by themselves: mine, ours, its, his, hers, yours, theirs. In a sentence, they act as singular or plural depending upon the number of things owned (one or more).

*Examples:* Their book is new. Theirs is new.  
Their books are new. Theirs are new.

**RULE 4:** These possessive pronouns are NEVER SUBJECTS by themselves: my, our, your, him, her, their, whom.

*Examples:* My car is being repaired in the shop.  
This is her book.  
Their dog dug a ditch along the fence.

**RULE 5:** These pronouns are also NEVER SUBJECTS: myself, ourselves, yourself, himself, herself, itself, themselves.

*Examples:* They gave themselves a pat on the back.  
The toddler dressed herself.

**RULE 6:** These pronouns are SOMETIMES SUBJECTS: it, you, yours, its, mine, ours, his, hers, theirs.

*Examples:* It is the one I gave to you. ("It" = S)  
I gave it to you. ("it" is NOT the S)  
You must register for the class before Friday. ("You" = S)  
Take the books with you to class. ("you" is NOT the S)  
Yours is on the table. ("Yours" = S)  
That book on the table is yours. ("yours" is NOT the S)

**RULE 7:** These pronouns are ALWAYS SUBJECTS: I, he, she, we, they, who, whoever.

*Examples:* She drove the car for 20 minutes before falling asleep.  
Phillip is the student who took 18 credits last quarter.  
If we build a stadium, they will come.