

What does "Person" mean?

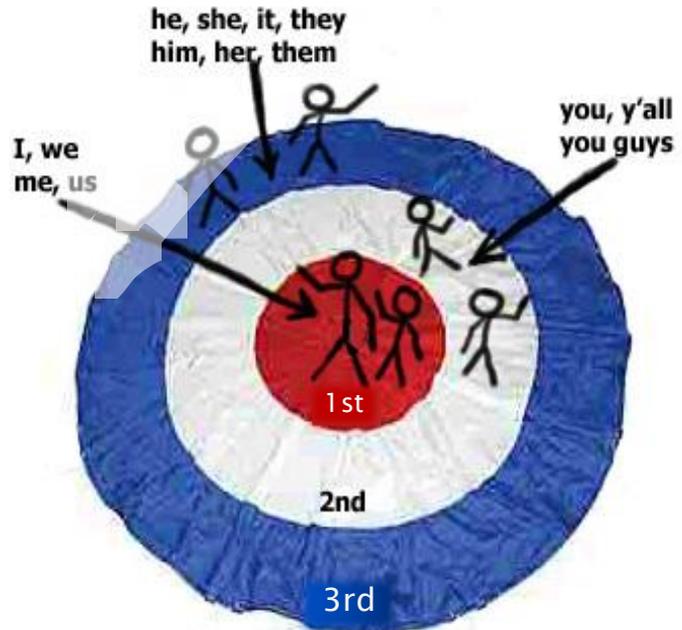
A pronoun with a certain "perspective."

In grammar, pronouns can be in **1st**, **2nd** or **3rd "person."**

During a conversation, everyone stands at the center of their own personal bull's eye. You stand in the center (red area); as you talk about yourself you use **1st person** pronouns - you say things like "I" and "we."

A bit further out is the white area; this is where your conversation partners stand. To refer to them you use **2nd person** pronouns like "you" and "you guys" (or y'all).

Finally, **3rd person** is further away (in the blue area). The pronouns you use to refer to them are "he, she, it, and they," but do not include I/we, or you/y'all.



1st, 2nd, and 3rd person in Danish

(subject and object pronouns):

		<u>Danish</u>		<u>English</u>		
		<u>Subject</u>	<u>Object</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Object</u>	
<u>Singular</u>	1st	jeg	mig	I	me	
	2nd	du	dig	you	you (informal)	
		De	Dem	you	you (formal)	
	3rd	han/hun	ham/hende	he, she	him, her	
		det/den	det/den	it	it	
		man*	en	one	one (indefinite)	
<u>Plural</u>	1st	vi	os	we	us	
	2nd	I	jer	you guys	you guys (informal)	
	3rd	de	dem	they	them	
		De	Dem	you guys	you guys	

***man**, in Danish, means "some person." In British, it is common to use the word "one" to convey this meaning: *One* should use *one's* fork when *one* eats. But in American English, we tend to use "you": *You* should use *your* fork when *you* eat. (I don't mean you, specifically, but people in general should do this!) Because Danish already has so many words for "you," the British translation "one" is used here.

What is a "Subject"?

The nouns that "do" the verb.

First consider this simple sentence: "Superhero Guy is standing." Nouns can be subjects or objects, but verbs can not. "Superhero Guy" is the only noun. Is it a subject? Yes. How do we know? We look at the verb. What is it? "Standing." Now we ask "who or what is standing?" The answer: "Superhero Guy." This means that "Superhero Guy" is the subject. **He's the one actually doing the verb.**



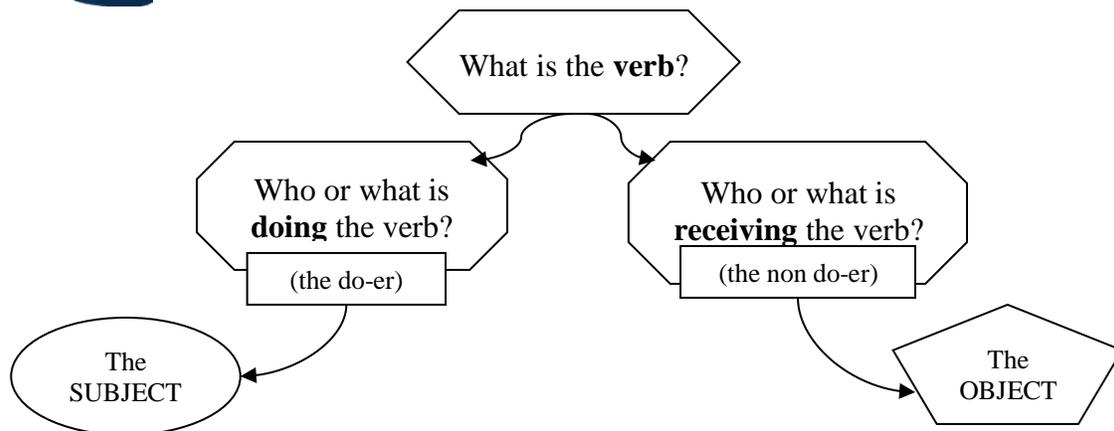
What is an "Object"?

The nouns that "get/receive" the verb.

Now consider this sentence: "Superhero Guy is carrying a car on his head." What's the verb? "Carrying." "Who or what is carrying?" "Superhero Guy" (so again, SG is the subject). **Who or what is Superhero Guy carrying?** "The car." Therefore, the car is the object. **It is the thing that is "getting/receiving" the verb - it is being carried.***



Subject vs. Object: Quick and Dirty



**The answer to why Superhero Guy is carrying a car on his head is a much more complicated question, which we'll save for another day.*