

Grammar Bites: “Pip and I” vs. “Pip and Me”

The misuse of the compound subject construction is a common mistake. Look at the following examples and identify the correct sentence:

- Pip and I went to meet Jagers.
- Jagers gave Pip and I an icy stare.
- Jagers then took a picture of Pip and I.

Only one of the above sentences is correct. If you chose the first one, great! But can you explain why the other two examples are wrong? Well, I'm going to tell you:

- "Pip and I went to meet Jagers." Here, *Pip and I* functions as a compound subject. *Pip* and *I* share the same verb, which is *went* in this case. They both went to see Jagers. Let's pretend that Pip didn't go. Then you would say, "I went to see Jagers," but not, "Me went to see Jagers."
- "Jagers gave Pip and I an icy stare." In this example, *Pip and I* is meant to function as a compound indirect object, which means that they receive something from the doer of the action. In this case, they receive an icy stare (direct object) from Jagers (subject). Let's say Pip wasn't there. Would you say, "Jagers gave I an icy stare"? Absolutely not. Therefore, the sentence should read, "Jagers gave **Pip and me** an icy stare."
- "Jagers then took a picture of Pip and I." Getting tired of the grammatical explanations? Ok, just go for the shortcut and kick Pip to the curb again (poor Pip). Would you say, "Jagers then took a picture of I"? No, nope, *non*. You would say, "Jagers then took a picture of **me**."

What we learned today:

- Be mindful of who the doer of the action is, and who the recipient of the action is.
- Test the sentence by getting rid of one of the subjects/objects (remember how we kept kicking Pip out of the picture?)
- Be careful about making people say "--and I." For example, if someone says, "My mother threw a party for Pip and me," don't tell them, "for Pip and I," because that's just wrong, oki doki?
- Jagers is one strange dude.