Pronouns

The Case of Jack and Jill

Jill wants to explain what really happened when she and Jack went up the hill. But she doesn’t understand the difference between he and him. Can you help her?

Directions: The word he or him belongs in each of the spaces below. Choose the correct word and write it in.

It was all Jack’s fault. I didn’t even want to go with ________ up that hill. Everyone knows that ________ is a troublemaker. ________ is always teasing Mary about her lamb. But ________ begged me to go with ________. Frankly, I think ________ has a crush on me. ________ and I went up the hill. At first we were having a fine time chatting about basketball, my favorite sport. It was after the pail was full of water that ________ and I got into trouble. ________ started flicking me with water. I asked ________ to stop, but ________ kept flicking away. ________ is very immature. I reached over and tried to grab the pail from ________. ________ got mad and jerked his arm away.

The water spilled all over ________ and me, and we started to fall. Suddenly, we were both tumbling down the hill. The pail kept hitting ________ in the head on the way down. That’s why ________ got hurt and I didn’t. Frankly, I would say ________ deserved it!

Grammar Cop’s Clues

He and him are both personal pronouns. You use both of them as a substitute for someone’s name. The key is knowing when to use he and when to use him. Here are some nifty tricks to help you get it right:

• He is the subject of a sentence or a clause. He is used at the beginning of a sentence and right before a verb. (Example: He won the dance contest. When the winner was announced, he jumped for joy.)

• Him is the object of a sentence or a clause. Him is likely to be at the end of a sentence and after a verb or a preposition. (Example: Richard called. I told him I want to take dancing lessons from him.)
The Case of Jack and Jill (p. 9)

him; he; He; he; him; he; He; he; He; him; he; He; him; he; him; he; he