Nominative, Objective and Possessive Case of Pronouns

Q: What does “case” mean?
A: The “case” refers to how a noun or pronoun is used in a sentence. For example, is it being used as the subject, direct object or object of the preposition?

I. Nominative Case (think subject)
   A. Used as the subject of the verb
      *I love to listen to jazz music.*
      *He and she will call the guests.*
      *They will call tomorrow.*
   B. Used as the predicate nominative
      *The captain is he.* *(He is the captain.)*
      *The speaker is she.* *(She is the speaker.)*
      Hint: The predicate nominative completes the meaning of a linking verb. It usually follows the words: am, is, are, was, were or a verb phrase: will be, has been, etc.
II. **Objective Case** (key word is object)

A. Used as the **direct object**
   
   *The actor surprised us.*
   *The dog followed her.*
   
   Hint: The direct object receives the action of the verb or names the result of the action – **it answers What or Whom.**

B. Used as the **indirect object**
   
   *James bought us a chess set.*
   *Mom gave me clear directions.*
   
   Hint: The indirect object comes before the direct object and tells **To Whom or For Whom** and **To What or For What** the action of the verb is done.

C. Used as the **object of the preposition**
   
   *The teacher spoke to them.*
   *Mary stood by Jim and her.*
   
   Hint: First find the **prepositional phrase.** Then find its object.
III. Possessive Case (possess = owns)

A. Used as an adjective (modify nouns)

Your story is in the folder.

My book seems to be lost.

B. Used like nouns as subjects, predicate nominative, direct or indirect object or object of the preposition.

The slice of pizza is mine. (p.n.)

Yours is in the back room. (subj.)

Hint: Don’t confuse contractions with possessive pronouns. The possessive form is used to show ownership.