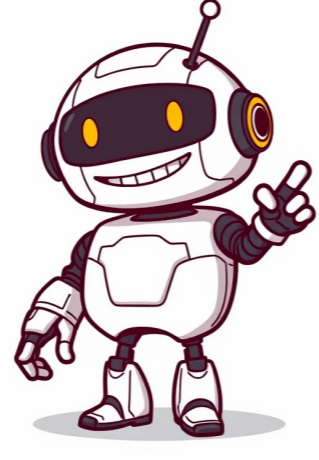


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Hi Is there a difference between the two?1. if you don't mind me asking 2. if you don't mind my asking No, but 2 is better and usual. Yes, there's a difference: #1 is incorrect; #2 is correct. "Asking", here, is a gerund and is treated as a noun, so the proper pronoun is my. (Just as you would say "I'm reading my book", not "I'm reading me book".) While I agree with Parla about correctness, #1 is becoming so usual in colloquial speech that #2 sounds "posh" to many. Would the meaning change if we dropped "me" to be : if you don't mind asking you to do so and so We could have an argument about correctness, but I am not sure that would help One Heart. There is nothing whatsoever wrong with "... me asking ..." - it all depends on how you analyse the sentence and the part of speech that "asking" constitutes. ... don't mind my asking ... (asking=gerund, needs a possessive) the objection could be to the act of asking, which happens to be made by me. ... don't mind me asking ... (asking=participle acting as adjective modifying "me") the objection could be to me, who happens to be doing some asking.One Heart, if you are talking to a BE speaker, older people like me would prefer to hear "my asking" because out teachers agreed with Parla. Younger people would prefer to hear "me asking", because that is normal, everyday usage. ... don't mind my asking ... (asking=gerund, needs a possessive) the objection could be to the act of asking, which happens to be made by me... don't mind me asking ... (asking=participle acting as adjective modifying "me") the objection could be to me, who happens to be doing some asking. I agree. Both forms are legitimate and they mean the same thing. However, that is only because "mind my asking" means much the same as "mind me (while I am) asking". In contrast:"Don't criticize me eating." might mean either: "Don't criticize my eating." "Don't criticize me while I am eating." "Don't criticize me while you are eating." Therefore, in general, the choice of gerund or participle does affect the meaning. I agree with mostly, with Pertinax. I think that both forms are legitimate. Although, "If you don't mind me asking," sounds extremely lazy because it's informal. Compared to, formally speaking, "If you don't mind my asking," I think it would sound more appropriate, if a comma was used within the informal statement. "If you don't mind, me asking." Not within the formal statement. "If you don't mind my asking." I don't have a clue where the "be" came from...or the, "Don't criticize me while you are eating." But, they don't have the same meaning, period! "If you don't mind asking you to do so and so," is an incomplete sentence. The only "rule" per se is that finite verbs go with subject pronouns (I ask, she asks), which means that subject pronouns do not go with non-finite verbs. That opens the door for both possessive and object pronouns as subject of non-finite verbs, and they are both commonly used and often used interchangeably. And sometimes, the choice, for example, of "me asking" or "my asking" may create a change of meaning/ambiguity (i.e., posts 6), but such ambiguity, present in isolated sentences, is resolved in context. Yes, there's a difference: #1 is incorrect; #2 is correct. "Asking", here, is a gerund and is treated as a noun, so the proper pronoun is my. (Just as you would say "I'm reading my book", not "I'm reading me book".) Unfortunately, MY is not a pronoun. It is an adjective, a possessive adjective, to be precise. That is why it can be used as a determiner before a noun. My, your, her, his, their, our, it's(possessive adjectives) can only be closely followed by nouns .my book, her bag.... So, if Gerunds are nouns(which they are), then, my asking, your being, his coming...are more grammatically appropriate than me asking, he coming, you being...except if it's right to say me book, him car... Cheers. Unfortunately, MY is not a pronoun Well now, that all depends on your choice of terminology. To most English speakers who care about terminology, it is the possessive case of the pronoun "I, me, my" or it is a determiner. If it was an adjective we could say "the my book" as we say "the red book". And there is certainly nothing wrong or less appropriate about "if you dont mind me asking", where the -ing form is called a participle. In modern BE usage, the "me asking" form is usual and the "my asking" version is fading away. Last edited: Oct 13, 2021 Yes, there's a difference: #1 is incorrect; #2 is correct. "Asking", here, is a gerund and is treated as a noun, so the proper pronoun is my. (Just as you would say "I'm reading my book", not "I'm reading me book".) Unfortunately, MY is not a pronoun. It is an adjective, a possessive adjective, to be precise. That is why it can be used as a determiner before a noun. My, your, her, his, their, our, it's(possessive adjectives) can only be closely followed by nouns .my book, her bag.... So, if Gerunds are nouns(which they are), then, my asking, your being, his coming...are more grammatically appropriate than me asking, he coming, you being...except if it's right to say me book, him car... Cheers Well now, that all depends on your choice of terminology. To most English speakers who care about terminology, it is the possessive case of the pronoun "I, me, my" or it is a determiner. If it was an adjective we could say "the my book" as we say "the red book". And there is certainly nothing wrong or less appropriate about "if you dont mind me asking", where the -ing form is called a participle. In modern BE usage, the "me asking" form is usual and the "my asking" version is fading away. No sir. The possessive case of I is MINE, not MY. Whichever way you choose to see it, MY YOUR HER...are not pronouns...My(possessive adjective)Mine(possessive pronoun). Thank you, sir. As I said, it all depends on your choice of terminology. Some authorities see my as a possessive pronoun, some see it as a possessive determiner, and some suggest that it should be regarded as an adjective. I choose to see it as a possessive pronoun when it is used in a sentence like "If you don't mind my asking, how old are you?" It is clearly equivalent to "If you don't mind John's asking ..." and "If you don't mind his asking ...", where John's is the possessive form of a noun and, therefore, his is a possessive pronoun. You surely aren't suggesting that John's is an adjective, are you? If I say "My book is on the table" I consider it to be a determiner. As I said, it all depends on your choice of terminology. Some authorities see my as a possessive pronoun, some see it as a possessive determiner, and some suggest that it I you should be regarded as an adjective. I choose to see it as a possessive pronoun when it is used in a sentence like "If you don't mind my asking, how old are you?" It is clearly equivalent to "If you don't mind John's asking ..." and "If you don't mind his asking ...", where John's is the possessive form of a noun and, therefore, his is a possessive pronoun. You surely aren't suggesting that John's is an adjective, are you?If I say "My book is on the table" I consider it to be a determiner. I am very sorry for the late response. I really do love the analysis you just gave.If you don't mind JOHN'S asking,I make bold to say that JOHN'S, as used above, is not a noun. It, indeed, is adjectival.John's book. .John's, here, can be replaced with/by a common adjective like expensive, or interesting, or heavy ...It is an adjective by function .There is no way any of MY YOUR HIS HER...can ever replace a noun. We can retain the genitive nomenclature but there is nothing pronominal about them...If you don't want to call them POSSESSIVE ADJECTIVES, then call them Adjectival forms of the personal pronouns(I we She...)...or genitive/Adjectival forms of the pronouns...but DON'T call them pronouns.Cheers.

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