

Whether to Use “I” in Resumes

Chat, for many years I've advised students when they write their resumes to avoid using "I" instead "Have developed...." "have managed a team of..." Does your research confirm that this is still the case, or have things changed? -- David

Hi David — great question. You're absolutely right that for many years, the convention has been to write resumes using **concise, first-person implied** language — omitting the pronoun “I.” For example:

- * “Managed a team of five developers on an agile project”
- * “I managed a team of five developers on an agile project”

Has that changed?

No — this convention still holds true in 2025. Most current resume-writing guidance from career centers, recruiters, and resume experts continues to advise:

- Avoid using “I,” “my,” or “we.”**
- Use action verbs** to start bullet points.
- Keep the tone professional and focused on accomplishments.**

This style maintains a more neutral, efficient tone and aligns with the general expectation that resumes are **marketing documents**, not personal narratives.

Exceptions?

The only real shift is that **online portfolios** or **cover letters** sometimes trend more conversational depending on the field (e.g., UX/UI, writing, or creative fields). But for traditional resumes — especially in business, tech, or academic contexts — the “no-I” rule is still the standard.

So your advice remains solid and current. Let me know if you'd like sample updated resume bullet points or if you're looking for any shifts across industries.

You're very welcome, David! Glad to help — feel free to reach out anytime if you want a second opinion on resume language or anything else.