

PRONOUN

Pronouns are the words which substitute for a noun or a noun phrase. A pronoun refers to something already mentioned in a sentence or a piece of text. Pronouns are used in place of nouns to prevent repetition of the noun to which they refer. Every pronoun should have a clear antecedent (The word for which the pronoun stands for)

Example:

The flight is late, the flight has been delayed. Sounds repetitive doesn't it?
 Lets use a pronoun in place of the noun- flight
 The flight is late, **it** has been delayed. Much better!

Another example:

The flights are late, the flights have been delayed. (Again, sounds repetitive)
 Now, lets use a pronoun in place of the noun-flights
 The flights are late, **They** have been delayed. (Sounds much better!)

Personal Pronouns

| | | Singular | | | | | Plural | | | |
|--------|------------|-----------|-----------------------|----------------------|--|------------|-----------|-----------------------|----------------------|--|
| | Subjective | Objective | Subjective Possessive | Objective Possessive | | Subjective | Objective | Subjective Possessive | Objective Possessive | |
| 1st | I | ME | MY | Mine | | We | Us | Our | Ours | |
| Person | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2nd | You | You | Your | Yours | | You | You | Your | Yours | |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|------------|-----|-----|-----|------|--|------|------|-------|--------|
| Pers on | | | | | | | | | |
| 3rd | He | Him | His | His | | They | Them | Their | Theirs |
| Pers on | She | Her | Her | Hers | | | | | |
| | It | It | Its | Its | | | | | |



Personal Pronouns Characteristics:

The Point of View - First Person: The one who's Speaking

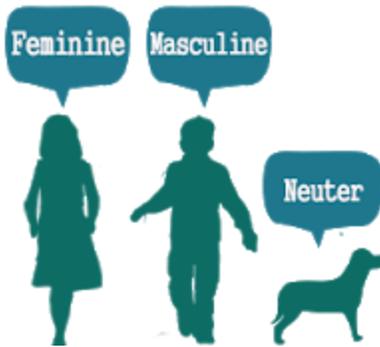
Second Person: The one spoken to

Third Person: The one's spoken about

For example: I will be going to Delhi next Saturday. (In this sentence, I is the 1st person personal pronoun)

Which clothes do you want to buy?(In this sentence, you is the personal pronoun)

The enemy forced them to surrender. (In this sentence, them is the personal pronoun)



Three Genders - Feminine: She, Her, Hers

Masculine: He Him His

Neuter: It Its They Them Their Theirs

For example: **She** had to borrow a bike from **her** friend. (In this sentence, **She** and **Her** are feminine personal pronouns)

People enjoy john's cooking, when **he** cooks Chinese food (**He** is a masculine personal Pronoun)

The dog had dug four of **its** teeth in the strangers foot. (**Its** is a neuter personal pronoun.)

Two Numbers - Singular: I Me My Mine You Your Yours He Him His She Her Hers It Its

Plural: We Us Our Ours You Your Yours They Them Their Theirs

For example:

They informed **me** that **they** had met **him** during **their** vacation

| | | | |

Plural **Singular** **Plural** **Singular** **Plural**

Three Cases - Subjective: (I You He She It We They)
Objective (Me, You, Him, Her, It, Us, Them)
Possessive (My Mine Your Yours His Her Hers Our Ours Their Theirs)

For example: **She** was an author of high repute. (**She** is a subjective personal pronoun)

The woman I was with at the party was **she**. (**She** is a subjective personal pronoun)

Peter please give **my** message to Ron. (**My** is a possessive personal pronoun)

That chair is **mine**. (Mine is a possessive personal pronoun)

The boss wants **us** to finish the work today. (**Us** is an objective personal pronoun)

You should tell **them** about your plans. (**Them** is an objective personal pronoun)

Kindly, give **him** my message. (**Him** is an objective personal pronoun)

Demonstrative Pronouns

| This | That | These | Those |
|---------------|--------------|-------------|------------|
| | | | |
| Singular-Near | Singular-Far | Plural-Near | Plural-Far |

This is a singular pronoun and describes things which are near.

That is also a singular pronoun but describes things which are far away.

These is a plural pronoun and describes things which are near.

Those is also a plural pronoun but describes things which are far away.

For example

This is news to me.

That is a good horse.

These pancakes are terrible.

The pancakes I had yesterday, **those** were better.

This novel is very well written.

You are going to play with **these** toys.
Is **this** the best you could do?

The demonstratives act as Pronouns or can also be used as determiners.

Example: Hand me **that** screwdriver. (**That** is used for the noun screwdriver)

The demonstrative pronouns can also act as qualifiers

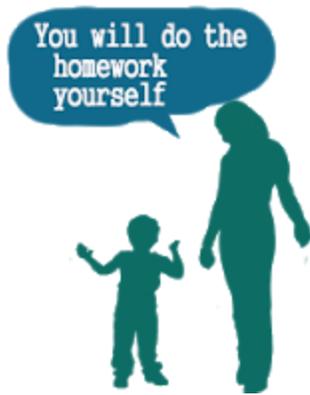
Example: Paul wanted **that** much food. (**That** describes the adjective much)

Reflexive and Intensive Pronouns

Reflexive pronoun is of special type. Reflexive pronouns are used when you want to refer back to the subject of the sentence. Reflexive pronouns end in **self** (Singular) and **selves** (plural). Each reflexive pronoun such as **he** or **she** has its own reflexive form.

There are eight reflexive pronouns

| Personal Pronouns | Reflexive Pronouns |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| I | Myself |
| You (singular) | Yourself |
| You (Plural) | Yourselves |
| He | Himself |
| She | Herself |
| It | Itself |
| We | Ourselves |
| They | Themselves |



For example:

I blame **myself** for this disaster.

You will do the homework **yourself**.

Richard saw **himself** in the mirror.

Mary sent a gift to **herself**.

My **cat** hurt **itself**.

We saw **ourselves** in the mirror.

You should help **yourselves**.

They can not protect **themselves** from the flood.

How to use reflexive pronouns?

1. When the subject and the object are the same.

- I accidentally shot **myself**.
- The **group** calls **themselves** revolutionaries.
- **He** hurt **himself** badly.

2. When the subject and the object are the same, reflexive pronoun is used as the object of a preposition.

- I did it by **myself**.
- **She** bought a present for **herself**.
- **Jeremy** is talking to **himself**.

3. Reflexive pronouns are also used when you want to emphasize the subject:

- I did it **myself**. (No-one helped me)

- **They** drank all the water **themselves**. (No-one else drank any)

Intensive Pronouns

Intensive pronouns act a little differently from reflexive pronouns and they can't be used exactly in the same way. Reflexive pronoun emphasizes its antecedent or the subject. The intensive pronouns are positioned right after the subject.

I myself am tired of all this work.

You yourself are to blame for all this mess.

The **leader himself** wrote me a letter.

The **dog himself** untied its collar.

The **boys themselves** led their entire school team to victory.

I myself have seen it.

You yourself made it.

You yourself asked me to do it.

Interrogative Pronouns

Interrogative pronouns are used to ask questions. Many times it has no antecedent because it is unknown and that is why the question is being asked.

Who Whom What Which Whose are interrogative pronouns. Note that whose is also a personal pronoun.

Difference between **who** and **whom**

Look at the following sentences:

Whom did you speak with? (This is the correct sentence)

but many people would say or write this as..

Who did you speak with? (This is grammatically incorrect but is accepted in spoken English)



- **Who** came first?
- **Whom** did you fight with?
- **What** is your name?
- **What** do you want?
- **Which** patient will the doctor see first?
- **Which** car came first in the race?
- There is one letter missing. **Whose** hasn't arrived?

We can also use suffixever sometimes to make compounds from some of these interrogative pronouns. Like whoever, whatever, whichever. We might use it to emphasize or to show surprise and confusion.

- **Whoever** would want to do such an awful thing?
- **Whatever** did Peter say to make Ellie cry like that?
- They are all amazing. **Whichever** you choose?

Indefinite Pronouns

An indefinite pronoun refers to something which is not definite. Indefinite pronoun refers to something vague. Indefinite pronoun doesn't refer to a specific person, thing or amount. Indefinite pronouns can be singular or plural and must follow subject verb agreement.

There are two types of indefinite pronouns:

1. Those which refer to an indefinite noun. There indefinite pronouns are:

anybody, anything, everyone, nobody, no one, somebody, something, anyone, everybody, everything, none, nothing, someone

2. The second category of indefinite pronouns are those which refer to a specific noun whose meaning is easily understood only because it was previously mentioned or because the following words make it clear. These indefinite pronouns are:

all, any, each, few, neither, some, another, both, either, many, one several.

Singular Indefinite Pronouns

Another, everyone, each, everybody, everything, nobody, nothing, somebody, someone, anybody, anything, either, everyone, either, no one, one, something

Plural Indefinite Pronouns

Both, few, many, several

Examples of Indefinite Pronouns:



Does **anybody** know where John is?

All are welcome to our party.

Rocky doesn't have **any**.

He passed his note to **another**.

Each bought a different dessert.

Anyone can see the stars on a clear night.

I couldn't hear **anything** at the concert.

Everything is fine.

Everyone praised the performance of the artist.

Many missed the last train.

No one admitted to the mistakes.

One could see the large waves from miles away.

Several turned out to help the needy.
Somebody called me on the phone.
He gave the ticket to **someone**.

Relative Pronouns

Relative Pronoun is a pronoun which relates to the word that it modifies. For example - the person who phoned me last night is my friend.

We can use the relative pronoun to link one clause or phrase to another. **Who, whom, that, which, whoever, whomever** and **whichever** are relative pronouns.

Relative pronouns who or whoever can be used to refer to the subject of a clause or sentence. Whom and whomever can be used to refer to the objects of the verb, a verbal phrase or a preposition.



Examples:

You may invite **whomever** you like to your house.

The candidate **who** wins the greatest popular vote doesn't always win the election.

The house **that** Joe built is small.

The professor **whom** I respect, recently retired.