**Pronouns**

A [pronoun](https://grammar.yourdictionary.com/parts-of-speech/pronouns/why-do-people-have-difficulty-with-pronoun-usage-in-english.html) is a word that replaces and substitutes a noun in a sentence. Pronouns are used to avoid repeating the same nouns over and over again. For example:

"Jeremy ran so fast, you'd think **his** life was on the line." The pronoun "his" saved us from repeating the name Jeremy

The word or phrase that a pronoun replaces is called the **antecedent** of the pronoun.

Every pronoun must have a clear [antecedent](https://webapps.towson.edu/ows/pro_antagree.htm#_antecedent_) (the word for which the pronoun stands).

The coach selected several key points. He wanted the team to memorize them. (‘He’ replaces ‘the coach’; ‘them’ replaces ‘several key points’)

In the previous example, original noun ‘the coach’ is the **antecedent** and the pronoun ‘he’ is the **referent** because it refers back to the original noun. The antecedent and the pronoun/s must agree in terms of number and gender.

**Notice :**

**\*firstly**  that the referents, are not ALWAYS words but SOMETIMES phrases. Remember that a grammatical phrase consists of **one or more words**), so the definition of a pronoun is, more accurately, 'a word that substitutes for a noun phrase (**NP)**'. Pronouns function like NPs in a clause, and so are said to be NPs themselves.

**\*Secondly**, sometimes the referent is not a specific person or thing. In 'How queer it seems', the pronoun *it,* like *something* and *everything,* only refers in a general way.

Common pronouns include **I**, **me**, **mine**, **she**, **he**, **it**, **we**, and **us**. In truth, there are many different types of pronouns, each serving a different purpose.

**The Seven Types of Pronouns**

There are **seven** types of pronouns the personal pronoun, the demonstrative pronoun, the interrogative pronoun, the relative pronoun, the indefinite pronoun, the reflexive pronoun, and the intensive pronoun.

**1-Personal Pronouns:**

[Personal pronouns](https://grammar.yourdictionary.com/parts-of-speech/pronouns/list-of-personal-pronouns.html) are used as a substitute for a person's name. There are two kinds: subjective and objective pronouns. That is, they either act as the subject of the sentence or the object of the sentence.

As the [subject of a sentence](https://grammar.yourdictionary.com/parts-of-speech/pronouns/subject-pronoun.html), they are:

* I
* you
* he
* she
* it
* we
* they

For example:

* **They** went to the store.
* **I** don't want to leave.
* **He** runs a great shop in town.
* **You** can't leave, either.

As the [object of the sentence](https://grammar.yourdictionary.com/parts-of-speech/pronouns/object-pronoun.html), they are:

* me
* you
* her
* him
* it
* us
* them

For example:

* Please don't sit beside me**.**
* Go talk to **her**.
* Mary put the gift under **it**.
* Don't look at **them**.

**Person, number and gender**

Personal pronouns have the following characteristics

1. **three persons**

1st person - the one(s) speaking  (I  me my  mine  we  us our ours)   
2nd person - the one(s) spoken to  (you your yours)

3rd person - the one(s) spoken about  (he  him  his  she her hers  it  its  they  their  theirs)

**2. three genders** Gender is related to the sex of the referent, and so is called **natural gender.** (Many other languages have **grammatical gender,**in which nouns for things are marked for gender. A French table is grammatically feminine; a German girl is grammatically neuter.)

feminine  (she  her  hers)  
       masculine (he  him  his)  
       neuter  (it its  they them their theirs)

**3.  two numbers** Like nouns, pronouns are marked for **number.**

       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)

**4.  three cases** they show possession

 subjective (*I  you  he  she  it  we  they*)  
      possessive  (*my  mine  your  yours  his  her  hers  our  ours  their  theirs*)  
      objective   (*me  you  him  her  it  us  them*)

In sentences, pronouns do the same work as nouns. They identify people and things, though they do not specifically name them as do nouns.There are three types of pronouns: **subject** (for example, he); **object** (him); or **possessive** (his).

1-**Subject pronouns** :Subjective personal pronouns are pronouns that act as the subject of a sentence. They are ***I***, ***you***, ***she***, ***he***, ***it***, ***you***, and ***they***. For example:

* + "**I** walked directly to the party."
  + "**You** showed up late; **she** was annoyed."
  + "**He** thought **you** had forgotten; **we** know you were just behind."

**2-Objective personal** pronouns are pronouns that act as the object of a sentence. They are ***me***, ***you***, ***her***, ***him***, ***it***, ***us***, ***you***, and ***them***. For example:

* + "The police officer told my brother and **me** to slow down."
  + "He pointed to the pedestrians and said to be careful of **them**."
  + "The police officer said there are a lot of speedy motorists like **us**."

**3-Possessive personal pronouns** are pronouns that show possession. They are ***mine***,***yours***,***hers***,***his***,***its***,***ours***, and ***theirs***. For example:

* + "Is this book **yours** or **his**?"
  + "All the books are **mine**."
  + "Nobody's house has as many books as **theirs**, not even **ours**."

**2-Possessive Pronouns**

[Possessive pronouns](https://grammar.yourdictionary.com/possessive-pronoun-worksheets.html) show ownership or possession of a noun. They are:

* my
* our
* your
* his
* her
* its (note there is no apostrophe)
* their

For example:

* Is that **my** book?
* No, that's **his** book.
* That's **its** shelf.
* I'd like to see **their** bookshelves.

However, there are also [independent possessive pronouns](https://grammar.yourdictionary.com/parts-of-speech/pronouns/possessive-pronoun-practice-for-elementary-kids.html). These pronouns refer to a previously named or understood noun. They stand alone and aren't followed by any other noun. They are:

* mine
* ours
* yours
* his
* hers
* its
* theirs

For example:

* That's **mine**.
* Wrong. It's **ours**.
* So, I suppose those clothes are **yours**?
* No, it's **theirs**.

**3-Indefinite Pronouns**

[Indefinite pronouns](https://grammar.yourdictionary.com/parts-of-speech/pronouns/indefinite-pronoun.html) don't point to particular nouns. We use them when an object doesn't need to be specifically identified. As such, it can remain indefinite. They include:

* few
* everyone
* all
* some
* anything
* nobody

For example:

* Most wealth is held by a select **few**.
* **Everyone** is here already.
* I don't have any paper napkins. Can you bring **some**?
* He's **nobody**.

**4-Relative Pronouns**

[Relative pronouns](https://grammar.yourdictionary.com/parts-of-speech/pronouns/relative-pronoun.html) are used to connect a clause or phrase to a noun or pronoun. We often see them when we need to add more information. They are:

* who
* whom
* which
* whoever
* whomever
* whichever
* that

For example:

* The driver **who** ran the stop sign was careless.
* I don't know **which** pair of shoes you want.
* Take **whichever** ones you want.
* No, not **that** one.

**5-Intensive Pronouns**

[Intensive pronouns](https://grammar.yourdictionary.com/for-teachers/pronoun-activities.html) emphasize, or intensify, nouns and pronouns. Typically, we find them right after the noun they're intensifying. These pronouns typically end in -self or -selves. They are:

* myself
* himself
* herself
* themselves
* itself
* yourself
* yourselves
* ourselves

For example:

* I **myself** like to travel.
* He **himself** is his worst critic.
* She approved the marriage **herself**.
* We went to hear W.B. Yeats **himself** speak.

**6-Demonstrative Pronouns**

[Demonstrative pronouns](https://grammar.yourdictionary.com/parts-of-speech/pronouns/what-is-a-demonstrative-pronoun.html) take the place of a noun that's already been mentioned. They can be singular or plural. There are five of them. They include:

* these
* those
* this
* that
* such

For example:

* **These** are ugly.
* **Those** are lovely.
* Don't drink **this**.
* **Such** was his understanding.

**7-Interrogative Pronouns**

[Interrogative pronouns](https://grammar.yourdictionary.com/parts-of-speech/pronouns/interrogative-pronoun.html) do just what they say. They work in sentences that are posing a question. They are:

* who
* whom
* which
* what
* whoever
* whomever
* whichever
* whatever

For example:

* **Who** is going to arrive first?
* **What** are you bringing to the party?
* **Which** of these do you like better?
* **Whatever** do you mean?

**\*Reflexive Pronouns**

[Reflexive pronouns](https://grammar.yourdictionary.com/parts-of-speech/pronouns/reflexive-pronoun.html) are similar to intensive pronouns. The difference between the two is that intensive pronouns aren't essential to a sentence's meaning. Meanwhile, reflexive pronouns are. Also, they're used when the subject and the object of a sentence refer to the same person or thing. These pronouns end in -self or -selves. They are:

* myself
* yourself
* himself
* herself
* itself
* ourselves
* yourselves
* themselves

For example:

* I told **myself** not to spend all my money on new shoes.
* You're going to have to drive **yourself** to the restaurant today.
* We gave **ourselves** plenty of extra time.
* They bought **themselves** a new car.

Practice:

1-Underline all the possessive pronouns in the following sentences. HINT: There are 15

.1. I took my dog to a dog show.

2. His hair was longer than hers.

3. I saw that her dog was smaller than their dog.

4. Someone asked, "Is that dog yours?"

5. I replied, "Yes, he's mine."

6. I wonder whose dog is the smallest.

7. My dog won a first place ribbon.

8. His ribbon was big and its color was blue.

9. My parents and I were proud of our dog.

10. Everybody thinks that one's dog is special.11. I'm sure your dog is special, too.

**B. Fill in the blank with the proper possessive pronoun: mine, ours, his, hers, yours, its, theirs**

1. I paid for my scarf, so it is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

2. Pick any of these desserts. The choice is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

3. The math book belongs to Ralph. It is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

4. All my brothers love video games. Playing them is a favorite pastime of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. 5. We bought this game together, so it is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

3- Underline the indefinite pronoun (or pronouns) in the following sentences. There are a total of 10 indefinite pronouns across these 9 sentences.

1. Everybody enjoys a good movie.

2. Does anybody have the time?

3. One sang while the other played the guitar.

4. Nobody knows the trouble I’ve seen.

5. The secret was known by few.

6. No, the secret was known by many.

7. Calculus is too hard for some.

8. Surely you recognize somebody.

9. Is there anything that I can do?

**4-Underline the indefinite pronouns in the following paragraph. There are 8 in all.**

I went on another trip last week. Few have visited the park I saw because everyone visits Yellowstone. I saw something moving in the woods, but could not see it clearly. Then there was more movement and everybody saw it. It could have been a bear or maybe just the wind. Nobody could figure it out, but we had many guesses. The scenery there was gorgeous; one could see for miles. Anybody would love that one view of the valley because nothing on Earth is more beautiful

5-Choose the correct pronouns.  
  
**myself**, **yourself**, **himself**, **herself**, **itself**, **ourselves**, **yourselves**, **themselves** or **each other**.

Haut du formulaire

Sandra and Angela lost …………………. in front of the stadium.

My friends enjoyed ……………… very much at the concert.

 Tim repaired his car ………………………..

We helped ……………………… with our report.

People often give ……………………..;; presents at Christmas.

 I bought ……………………. a new camera.

 Chris, did you do the maths homework …………………………….?

 They looked at ………………………and smiled.

 Ron and Tom often write e-mails to …………………………… because they're good friends.

 Ann only thinks of……………………………….. . She's selfish.

6-Put in the relative **who**, **which** or **whose** where necessary. Type an **x** if the relative pronoun can be left out.

[Show example](https://www.englisch-hilfen.de/en/exercises/pronouns/relative_pronouns2.htm)

### Do you need help?

[Relative pronouns who, which, whose and that](https://www.englisch-hilfen.de/en/grammar/who_which.htm)

Haut du formulaire

1. This is the boy had an accident.
2. Yesterday I saw a car was really old.
3. Mandy is the girl I met on Friday.
4. I haven't seen Frank, brother is five, for a long time now.
5. The robber stole the car the lady parked in front of the supermarket.
6. This is the man house is on fire.
7. Can I talk to the girl is sitting on the bench?
8. The book you gave me is great.
9. She likes hamburgers are hot.
10. Bill Clinton, was President of the USA, has only one daughter.

Bas du formulaire

Put in the relative **who**, **which** or **whose** where necessary. Type an **x** if the relative pronoun can be left out.

Haut du formulaire

1. This is the boy had an accident.
2. Yesterday I saw a car was really old.
3. Mandy is the girl I met on Friday.
4. I haven't seen Frank, brother is five, for a long time now.
5. The robber stole the car the lady parked in front of the supermarket.
6. This is the man house is on fire.
7. Can I talk to the girl is sitting on the bench?
8. The book you gave me is great.
9. She likes hamburgers are hot.
10. Bill Clinton, was President of the USA, has only one daughter.

Choose **this, that, these or those** from the drop down menu.

Haut du formulaire

Look at …………………….. newspaper here.

Bas du formulaire

 ……………………………;are my grandparents, and ………………………;people over there are my friend's grandparents.

 ………………………….; building over there is the Chrysler Building.

 ……………………………is my mobile phone and

……………………… is your mobile phone on the shelf over there.

…………………… photos here are much better than …………………….photos on the book.

………………………………….. was a great evening.

 Are……………………………..your pencils here?

 ……………………… bottle over there is empty.

 …………………………… bricks over there are for your chimney.

 John,…………………………… take folder and put it on the desk over there.

Choose the correct reflexive pronouns from the drop down menu.  
  
**myself**, **yourself**, **himself**, **herself**, **itself**, **ourselves**, **yourselves**, **themselves**

Robert made this T-shirt ………………………………….;

Bas du formulaire

 Lisa did her homework We helped …………………………… to some Coke at the party.

 Emma, did you take the photo by ……………………………..?

 I wrote this poem ……………………………….

 He cut ………………………………with the knife while he was doing the dishes.

 The lion can defend ………………………………….

 My mother often talks to ……………………………

 Tim and Gerry, if you want more milk, help …………………….

 Alice and Doris collected the stickers …………………………….

Use the personal pronoun in brackets in its **subject or object form** or as a **possessive determiner** or a **possessive pronoun**.

Haut du formulaire

1. We can phone my grandma and ask . (she)
2. Are your friends? (they)
3. is working on presentation. (she)
4. Excuse , can ask a question? (I)
5. can ride skateboards. (they)
6. is friend. (he)
7. This is not jacket, was blue. (I)
8. bought it for . (she)
9. These two cats are . (we)
10. don't eat potatoes because don't like . (they)

Bas du formulaire