

PRONOUNS

A pronoun is a word that substitutes (take the place of) a noun or noun phrase. Pronouns are words like: **he, you, ours, themselves, some, each...**

If we don't have pronouns, we will have to repeat a lot of nouns. We will have to say things like:

- Do you like **Mary**? Yes, I like **Mary**. **Mary** is a kind person.

With pronouns we can say:

- Do you like **Mary**? Yes, I like **her**. **She** is a kind person.

SUBJECT PRONOUN	OBJECT PRONOUN	POSSESSIVE DETERMINER / ADJECTIVE	POSSESSIVE PRONOUN	REFLEXIVE PRONOUN
I	me	my	mine	myself
you	you	your	yours	yourself
he	him	his	his	himself
she	her	her	hers	herself
it	it	its	-	itself
we	us	our	ours	ourselves
you	you	your	yours	yourselves
they	them	their	theirs	themselves

1 Personal Pronouns: Subject and Object form

A personal pronoun can refer to the person or people **speaking** ("first person"), **spoken to** ("second person") or **spoken about** ("third person").

Personal pronouns have distinct forms for each of these three "persons", as well as for singular and plural:

		SINGULAR	PLURAL
first person (the person speaking)	subject	I	we
	object	me	us
second person (the person spoken to)	subject	you	you
	object	you	you
third person (the person spoken about)	subject	he (a male person) She (a female person) it (a thing or an animal)	they
	object	him, her, it	them

Examples:

- *He and I* are old friends.
- When *they* asked *me* if *I* wanted the job, *I* said yes.
- *You* are taller than *me*.
- *I* thought *she* told *you*.
- Why don't *we* go and see *it* together?
- *She* gave *us* a picture as a wedding present.
- *He* will be free soon- *you* can wait for *him* here.
- 'Where is your car?' 'It's in the garage.'
- Please give *her* my regards.
- Did *you* see it?

2 Possessive Determiners (= Adjectives)

Possessive determiners show possession and come at the beginning of noun phrases. They do not change according to the thing possessed, but according to the possessor.

my	→	<i>My name is Joe.</i>
your	→	<i>What's your dog's name?</i>
his	→	<i>Is this his car?</i>
her	→	<i>Her car is a Mini.</i>
its	→	<i>Its nest is high in the tree.</i>
our	→	<i>Are our parents at home?</i>
your	→	<i>Your tests are good.</i>
their	→	<i>Their rooms are nice.</i>

3 Possessive Pronouns

Possessive determiners show possession and come at the beginning of noun phrases.

mine	→	<i>This is my chair. It's mine</i>
yours	→	<i>These are your books. They are yours.</i>
his	→	<i>Is this his dog? Is it his?</i>
hers	→	<i>Where are her toys? Where are hers?</i>
*		
ours	→	<i>These are our jackets. These are ours.</i>
yours	→	<i>These are our books. These are yours.</i>
theirs	→	<i>Where are their plants? Where are theirs?</i>

*There is no possessive pronoun for 'it'. We use 'its own' instead:
Your dog is eating my dog's bone, why can't it eat its own?

4 Reflexive Pronouns

The reflexive pronouns are used when subject and object are the same person. They can never be omitted.

myself	→	<i>I burnt myself.</i>
yourself	→	<i>Did you hurt yourself?</i>
himself	→	<i>He cut himself when he was shaving.</i>
herself	→	<i>She bought herself a new dress.</i>
itself	→	<i>The cat was washing itself.</i>
ourselves	→	<i>We enjoyed ourselves at the party.</i>
yourselves	→	<i>You haven't looked at yourselves, have you?</i>
themselves	→	<i>They enjoyed themselves.</i>

5 Intensive Pronouns

The reflexive forms can also be used as intensive pronouns. Intensive pronouns point one back to a noun or a pronoun (not necessarily the subject) to add emphasis to it; however, intensive pronouns do not indicate a passing back of action.

Examples:

- *I myself don't know the answer.*
- *Jane herself was at the meeting.*

An intensive pronoun does not need to follow right after the noun or pronoun that it emphasizes (although in most cases it does).

Example:

- *She told me the news herself.*

6 Reciprocal Pronouns

Reciprocal pronouns express an interchangeable or mutual action or relationship. There are two forms and each has a possessive case:

each other *one another*
each other's *one another's*

Examples:

- *Mark and Dave greeted each other*
OR
- *Mark and Dave greeted one another.*
- *Mark and Dave were embarrassed that they had forgotten each other's names.*

OR

- *Mark and Dave were embarrassed that they had forgotten one another's names.*

7 Interrogative Pronouns

We use Interrogative pronouns to ask questions. These pronouns can be personal or non-personal.

FORMS:

	SUBJECT	OBJECT	POSSESSIVE
PERSONAL	who	whom	whose
(NON)-PERSONAL	which		
NON-PERSONAL	what		

Examples:

- *Who has been sitting in my chair?*
 - *Which chair are you talking about?*
 - *What do you want?*
 - *Whose car did you drive here?*
 - *For whom will you vote?*
- (for more, see page 228)

8 Relative Pronouns

Relative pronouns (*who/whoever/which/that*) relate groups of words to nouns or other pronouns.

FORMS:

	SUBJECT	OBJECT	POSSESSIVE
PERSONAL	who	whom	whose
NON-PERSONAL	which / that	which / that	whose

Examples:

- *That's the boy who stole the money.*
- *She is the girl whom I met at the airport.*
- *Where is the book that you bought?*
- *I saw his last film, which was shot in Australia.*
- *It's the house whose door's painted red.*

(for more see page

9 Demonstrative Pronouns

Demonstrative pronouns can function by themselves as substitutes for specific nouns. The speaker usually uses such an independent demonstrative pronoun when he or she physically or verbally gestures towards something. The writer should only use such an independent demonstrative pronoun when the object of the gesture is completely and clearly identifiable.

Forms:

SINGULAR	PLURAL
this	these
that	those

Example:

This needs to be repaired.

The demonstrative pronoun **this** is referring to some object (a washing machine?) that the speaker is talking about.

If it is unclear which antecedent noun the demonstrative pronoun replaces, add the noun after the pronoun. In writing, one cannot point effectively to a noun, especially if the preceding sentence contains more than one choice. If the writer wishes to point to the idea of the preceding sentence, he or she will have to supply a new noun. The pronoun will now be a demonstrative adjective, because it will describe the noun (new or repeated) rather than replace it.

Example:

*The boy was afraid and the dog had sensed **this**.*

10 Indefinite Pronouns

Indefinite pronouns have no specific antecedents. Although an indefinite pronoun may refer to someone or something identifiable, it refers to them in general with the notion of *all*, *some*, *any*, or *none*.