

Pronouns

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What is a Pronoun?



A Pronoun is one of the primary parts of speech. It is a word that takes the place of a noun or another pronoun.

Example:



- She, herself, he, it etc.

Pronouns are used to keep the flow of words smooth by reducing the repeated use of the subject or object word.



Example:

- Mina looked around hopefully while she lifted the heavy suitcase containing her books.
- Mr. Goel pays all his bill himself.



Kinds of Pronouns:

There are seven kinds of Pronouns:

1. Personal Pronoun
2. Demonstrative Pronoun
3. Interrogative Pronoun
4. Relative Pronoun
5. Indefinite Pronoun
6. Reflexive Pronoun
7. Intensive Pronoun

Personal Pronouns:

These are pronouns used as substitutes for proper or common nouns. They can be categorized by person.

First person pronoun:

This is one that refers to the speaker or the writer.

Example:

- **I** for singular
- **We** for plural.

Second person pronoun:

This pronoun refers to the person spoken to as 'you'.

Example:

- You for both singular and plural.

Third person pronoun:

This pronoun refers to the person being spoken about.

Example:

- He, she, her and him for singular.
- They and them for plural.

Subjective Personal Pronoun

This indicates that the pronoun is acting as the subject of the sentence. The subjective personal pronouns are I, you, she, he, it, we, you, they.



Examples:

- **He** stole some cookies from the larder.
- When **she** was a young girl **she** sold bread for a living.
- **You** are the funniest person I have ever met.
- **It** is on the table.

Objective Personal Pronoun

This indicates that the pronoun is acting as an object of a verb, [preposition, compound verb](#). The objective personal pronouns are me, you, her, him, it us, them.

Examples:

- After reading the book for an hour, Jacob threw it on the floor.
- The teacher will speak to **you** in a minute.

Possessive Personal Pronoun

This indicates that the pronoun is acting as a marker of possession and defines who owns a particular person or object. The Possessive Personal Pronouns are mine, yours, hers his , ours, theirs.

Examples:

- The largest piece of cake is **mine**.
- This dress is **yours**.
- **His** toys are in the basket.
- **Ours** is the bright pink one at the end.

Demonstrative Pronoun

This pronoun points to and identifies a pronoun or a noun.

This and these refers to things that are nearby while

That and those refer to things that are farther away.

Examples:

- **This** is not acceptable.
- **That** is the flower she wants.

Interrogative Pronoun

This pronoun is used to ask questions.

Interrogative pronouns are whom, which, who, what and the compounds formed with the [suffix](#) ever for example whomever, whatever, whichever, whoever.

Examples:

- **Which** is my jacket?
- **Whom** should I give it to?
- **Who** will boil the vegetables?
- **What** did they do?

Relative Pronoun

A Relative pronoun is used to link one phrase to another [phrase](#).

Relative pronouns are who, whom, that, which.

- The compounds **whoever**, **whomever**, **whichever** are also Relative Pronouns.
- **Who** or **whoever** may be used to refer to the subject of a sentence and **whom** and **whomever** to the object of the verb.

Examples:

- You can call **whomever** you want for dinner.
- The girl **who** sings well is also a good dancer.
- She will eat **whatever** food is served.

Indefinite Pronoun

This pronoun refers to an identifiable but not a specific person or thing. It conveys an idea of all, none, some or any.

Examples:

- She brought sweets for **everyone** in school.
- Please give a coin to **each**.
- **Everything** should be donated to the orphanage.

Reflexive Pronouns

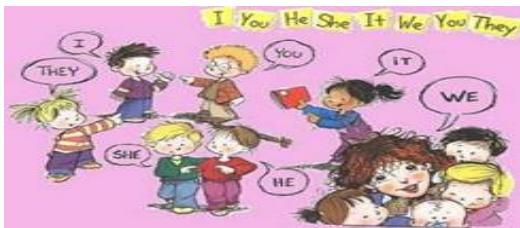
These pronouns can be used to reflect back to the subject of the sentence. The Reflexive Pronouns are myself, yourself, herself, himself. Itself, ourselves, yourselves, themselves.

Examples:

- He always does the housework **himself**.
- I kept asking **myself** why I called him twice.
- Although he had promised to take us, we decided to go **ourselves**.

Intensive Pronoun

An intensive pronoun is used to emphasize its [antecedent](#). They are identical in form to reflexive nouns.



Examples:

- She **herself** couldn't believe it.
- They **themselves** are responsible for the mess.
- The Mayor**himself** decided to impose new rules.

What is the difference between Pronouns and Nouns?

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Reference Links:

- <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pronouns>
- <http://www.towson.edu/ows/pronouns.htm>
- <http://www.englishclub.com/grammar/pronouns.htm>
- <http://www.writingcentre.uottawa.ca/hypergrammar/pronouns.html>
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-T4xw5C74Ps>

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