**Language structure:**

**PRONOUNS**

**Activity**

**Complete the spaces in the text below with the correct referencing words. Then share with your pair and check your answers.**

Jeanette: Good morning everyone and welcome to my weekly show about fitness. Today I want to talk about ways you can improve (1)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ fitness without having to join a gym or sports centre. Now first of all, it is important to decide what you want to achieve. Many people want to improve (2)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ health in general, but other people want to focus on losing weight. I use a combination of both strength building and weight loss exercise to maintain (3 ) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ fitness level but I know a couple who go walking twice a week to maintain (4 ) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ The most important thing is to do something you like, for example, martial arts, hiking, tennis or watersports. (5)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ are all good as cardiovascular exercise and strength training. One excellent way is to join a local club because you w ill meet other people with the same interests as (6)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_It is also important to keep up motivation levels and exercising with other people can be a good way to do (7)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_And don't forget about the local park. (8)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is a great place to exercise for free. Sometimes parks provide a running track or other communal facilities, all of which are free to use.

Pronouns are words that are used in place of nouns (**pro** means *in place of* and then **noun**).

In English, we distinguish personal pronouns, demonstrative pronouns, interrogative pronouns, possessive pronouns, reciprocal pronouns, reflexive pronouns, indefinite pronouns and relative pronouns.

**2.2.1. Personal pronouns**

Persons like *I, you, etc. are called* **personal pronouns**, because they refer to **grammatical person*: 1st person*** *I, we* ***2nd person: you 3rd person*** *he, she, it, one, they.*

**Note:** in **English,** we distinguish 2 forms of personal pronouns namely ***subject*** and ***object forms.***

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Forms** | | **subject** | **object** |
| Singular | First person | *I* | *Me* |
| Second person | *You* | *You* |
| Third person | *He, she, it* | *Him, her, it* |
| Plural | First person | *We* | *Us* |
| Second person | *you* | *You* |
| Third person | *they* | *Them* |

As illustrated in the above table, personal pronouns subject are used in the place of a subject whereas personal pronouns object are used in the place an *object.*

**Use of subject and object pronouns**

* Object pronouns are often used after **be:** e.g. who is it? **–** it is ***me/him/her/us/them.***
* We do not use ***I, she, etc.*** on their own in answer to questions with who? In every day speech, we use object pronouns: e.g. *who told him?* ***–me/ not I.*** Or we say: I did/ I didn’t.
* After **as** and **than**, we use object pronouns: e.g. *he is taller* ***than me/*** *as tall* ***as me.*** Or we use subject verb: *he’s taller* ***than I am /****as tall as* ***I am.***

**Use of *it***

* If it is normally used of a thin or an animal whose sex we don’t know, and sometimes of a baby or a small child:

e.g. – *Where is my map? If I left it on the table.*

*- look at the bird. It always comes to my window.*

*- Her new baby is tiny. It only weights 2kilos.*

**It** can be used of people in sentences such us:

* Ann (on phone): *who is that/ who is it?*
* Bill: it’ *me*
* *Is that Tom over there? No it is Peter*

**It** is used in expressions of *time, distance, weather, temperature, tide:*

* *What time is it? – it is six*
* *What’s the date? It’s the third of May*
* *How far is it to York? It is 400 kilometers.*
* *How long does it take to get there? –It depends on how you go.*
* *It is raining.*
* *It’s full moon tonight. In winter it’s/it is dark at six o’clock.*
* *It is high tide/ low tide.*

2.2.2. **Demonstrative pronouns**

Demonstrative pronouns are words that are used to show someone or something.

In English, we distinguish two types of demonstrative pronouns depending on position of someone or something compared to the speaker.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Demonstrative pronoun** | | |
| **Distance**  **Number** | **Near** | **Far** |
| **Singular** | **This** | **That** |
| **Plural** | **These** | **Those** |

**Examples: *This*** was my mother’s ring. / ***This*** is very yummy!

***That***looks like the car I used to drive. / Could you hand me ***that***?

***These*** are nice shoes, but they look uncomfortable. / ***These*** are the most comfortable.

***Those*** look like riper than the apples on my tree. / ***Those*** belong to Sarah.

**2.2.3 Interrogative pronouns**

Interrogative pronouns are words that are used when asking questions.

**For persons: -** Subject: ***who*** *(*pronoun*)*

***E.g Who*** pays the bill?

***Who*** are these boys?

*-Object:* ***whom, who*** *(*pronoun*)*

***E.g. (Very formal English)* whom** did the committee appoint?

(Normal English) **who** did you see?

* Possessive: ***whose*** *(*pronoun and adjective*)*

**E.g .whose** car broke down? (**Whose** as subject)

**Whose** umbrella did you borrow? **(Whose** as object and the verb**)**

**Whose** are these?

**Note**: In the two first examples, **whose** is used as an *adjective* whereas in the two last example. **Whose** is used as a *pronoun.*

**For a person or things** when the choice is restricted:

*Which (*pronoun and adjective*)*

*Which pronoun is used alone as the subject of the pronoun*

E.g. **which** of you knows the formula?

*Which adjective can be used of people when there is only a very slight idea of* ***restriction?***

***E.g : Which*** *poet ( of all poets)do you like best?*

**2.2.4. Possessive pronouns**

Possessive pronouns are words that are used to refer to the possessor, not to the thing **possessed.**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Number** | | **Personal pronouns** | **Possessive adjectives** | **Possessive pronouns** |
| **Singular** | 1st person | I | My | Mine |
| 2nd person | You | Your | Yours |
| 3rd person | He/ she/it | His/ her/ its | His/ hers |
| **Plural** | 1st person | We | Our | Ours |
| 2nd person | You | Yours | Yours |
| 3rd person | They | Their | Theirs |

Examples:

The kids are **yours** and **mine.**

The house is **theirs**and its paint is flaking.

We shall finally have what is rightfully **ours**.

Their mother gets along well with **yours**.

Here are our books. Where are **yours**?

I left my bag here and he left **his**.

We got our fruits. What about **theirs**?

They got their meals. What about **ours**?

Can I borrow your pen? I lost **mine**.

Why are you using my phone? Where is **yours**?

I can’t find my bag. Can I take **hers**?

**2.2.5. Reflexive pronouns**

Reflexive pronouns are words that are used when the subject and the object are the same.

E.g. Cut While he was shaving (Not Tom cut him)

Cut

Himself

Tom

The reflexive pronouns are the following;

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Person  number | First person | Second person | Third person |
| Singular | Myself | yourself | Himself /herself/itself |
| Plural | Ourselves | yourselves | themselves |

* I don’t want you to pay for me. I will pay for *myself.*
* The *old lady* sat in a corner talking to *herself.*
* If *you* want more to eat, help yourselves.
* Don’t get angry. Control *yourselves*.

Note:

* **Reflexive pronoun** can also be used for emphasizing a pronoun or a noun.

**E.g.** The king himself gave her the medal

Ann herself opened the door.

I did it myself.

* There aren’t many verbs in English which must always be used with reflexive pronouns:

Absent oneself, avail oneself (of), and pride oneself (on).

E.g. Monica **absented herself** from work.

*Jim* ***prides himself*** *on his cooking*.

* We often use reflexive pronouns with these verbs: amuse, blame, cut, dry, enjoy,

hurt and introduce.

E.g. don’t blame yourself.

I enjoyed myself at the party.

* We sometimes add reflexive pronoun with these verbs after verbs like dress, hide, shave and wash. For emphasis or to show that something has been than with an effort.

E.g. Polly has now learnt how to **dress herself.**

* Verbs like get up, sit down, stand up, wake up and get wet, get tired, get dressed, get married are normally reflexive in English.

E.g. I sat down with difficulty.

We might use a reflexive only for emphasis:

E.g***. I sat myself down*** with difficulty.

**2.2.6. Indefinite pronouns**

Indefinite pronouns are words that are used to refer to someone or something without being specific.

Indefinite pronouns are the following: *someone, somebody, something, anyone, anybody, anything, no one, nobody, and nothing.*

Compound with **some, any** and **no** follow the above rule.

*E.g. – someone/somebody wants to speak to you on the phone.*

*-No one/nobody has ever given me a free tick for anything.*

*- Do you need anything from the teacher?*

*- Would anyone/anybody like a drink?*

**Note also:**

*I drink anything= I don’t mind want I drink*.

*Anyone will tell you where the house is.*

**2.2.7. Relative pronouns**

Relative pronouns are words that are used to introduce *relative clause.* A relative clause tells us which person or thing (or what kind of person or thing) the speaker means.

E.g. The man **who lives next door** is very friendly.

The underlined word is a relative pronoun. The word that are in bold together, they make a relative clause .in English, the following words are referred to as relative pronouns: *who, whom, whose, which, that, where, when*

**Who and whom** are used for person only.**Who** is used in the place of subject whereas **whom** is used in the place of an object.

E.g. The man lives the next door. He is friendly.

The man **who lives next door** is friendly. (in this sentences, *whom* refer to the noun phrase which is the ***man***)that is a subject.

* I talked to Mary. She is a nurse
* The lady whom I talked to is a nurse. (In this sentence, *whom refers to the noun* **Mary** *which is an object in this sentence.*)

**Whose** is used for both persons and objects to show possessor.

E.g John is a member of parliament. His daughter is a Harvard graduate.

John **whose** daughter is a Harvard graduate is a member of parliament.

**Which** is used for object only.

E.g. I hired a car. It broke down.

The car **which** I hired broke down.

**That** can be used for both person or object.

E.g. It is the manager **that** we want.

The car that I hired broken down

**Note: When, where,** and **why** are used as a relative adverbs.

**When** is used to talk about time, where is used to talk about place and why is used to give a reason.

E.g. The hotel **where** we stayed wasn’t very clean.

The year **when** he was born is not known.

John is sick the reason **why** he didn’t attend class yesterday.

3. **Personal pronouns, possessive and reflexive pronouns**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Personal pronouns subjects** | **Personal pronouns objects** | **Possessive adjectives** | **Possessive pronouns** | **Reflexive pronouns** |
| I  You  He  She  It  We  They | Me  You  His  Her  Its  Us  Them | Me  You  His  Her  Its  Our  Their | Mine  Yours  His  Her  -  Ours  Theirs | Myself  Yourself  Himself  Herself  Itself  Ourselves  Themselves |