

## PRONOUNS

A **pronoun** in German as well as in English is like a shortcut to refer to a noun, a word that stands for or represents a noun or noun phrase, a pronoun is identified only in the context of the sentence in which it is used.

So you must have a prior idea about who "he or she" "er or sie" is.

In English we find "I, her, what, that, his", In German pronouns use is governed by cases (nominative, accusative, dative, genitive), number and gender. All these three factors can affect the pronoun.

Types of pronouns include personal pronouns (refer to the persons speaking, the persons spoken to, or the persons or things spoken about), indefinite pronouns, relative (connect parts of sentences), reciprocal or reflexive pronouns (in which the object of a verb is being acted on by verb's subject), demonstrative, and interrogative pronouns.

### German Personal Pronouns

The personal (subject) pronouns in German are (ich, du, er, sie, es, wir, ihr, Sie, sie.), and make the equivalent of (I, you, he, she, it, we, you people, you all, they) in English, usually they take the nominative form, since they're the subject of the sentence. They're very important and therefore they must be memorized by heart.

**I** have a pen = **Ich** habe einen Kugelschreiber.

Personal Pronouns in German	
Singular	
I	ich
you (familiar)	du
you (formal)	Sie
he, she, it	er, sie, es
Plural	
we	wir
you (familiar)	ihr
you (formal)	Sie
they	sie

## German Object Pronouns

Object pronouns replace the object of a sentence; **direct object pronouns** take the place of the direct object nouns, let's take this example "I see **a man**", "a man" can be replaced in English by the direct object pronoun "him" and **not** "he", so it would be "I see **him**", the same thing happens in German:

Ich sehe **einen Mann** becomes Ich sehe **ihn**.

Note that the direct object pronoun in German is associated with the accusative case:

Direct Object Pronouns in German	
Singular	
me	mich
you (familiar)	dich
you (formal)	Sie
him, her, it	ihn, sie, es
Plural	
us	uns
you (familiar)	euch
you (formal)	Sie
them	sie

The **indirect object pronouns** (IOP) are used to replace nouns (people or things) in a sentence to which the action of the verb occurs. In English usually it is preceded by a preposition, "I give the book to Katja", the name "Katja" is an indirect object noun, to replace it with a pronoun we would say in English "her", in German we would say "ihr", note that since the IOP is associated with the **dative**, the preposition "to" that we would usually use in English is not used in German, or rather we would say that it's mixed with the pronoun (look at the table below to understand the concept better), for example "**to her**" in German will become one word "**ihr**".

Indirect Object Pronouns in German	
Singular	
to me	mir
to you (familiar)	dir
to you (formal)	Ihnen
to him, to her, to it	ihm, ihr, ihm
Plural	
to us	Uns
to you (familiar)	Euch
to you (formal)	Ihnen
to them	Ihnen

## German Possessive Pronouns

The **possessive** is another aspect that you need to master in German, the possessive pronouns indicate ownership and they replace a noun just like in English, example: “it is **my house**” becomes “it is **mine**”. but while in English you can use “mine” to the singular and feminine, in German you have to add an “**e**” to for the feminine,

Possessive Pronouns in German	
Singular	
Mine	mein/e
Yours	mein/e
yours (formal)	Ihr/e
his, hers, its	sein/e
Plural	
Our	unser/e
yours (familiar)	eur/e
yours (formal)	Ihr/e
Theirs	ihr/e

Reflexive verbs express an action that acts upon the subject, and with the reflexive verbs you will find reflexive pronouns, which are placed after of the conjugated verb, for example: **Ich wasche mich** (I wash **myself**). **Ich stelle mir vor** (I imagine “**myself**”). Note that these pronouns have two forms, one with the accusative and another with the dative. When to use each one of them will depend on the verb, some reflexive verbs are associated with the accusative, and some others are associated with the dative. You can check the **verbs** part to learn more.

German Reflexive Pronouns	
Accusative	
Myself	Mich
yourself (familiar)	Dich
yourself (formal)	Sich
himself, herself, itself	Sich
Ourselves	Uns
yourselves (familiar)	Euch
yourselves (formal)	Sich
Themselves	Sich
Dative	
Myself	Mir
yourself (familiar)	Dir
yourself (formal)	Sich
himself, herself, itself	Sich
Ourselves	Uns
yourselves (familiar)	Euch
yourselves (formal)	Sich
Themselves	Sich

A brief summary of the pronouns we've learned so far:

German Pronouns				
	nominative	accusative	dative	genitive
1st singular	ich	mich	mir	mein-
2nd singular	du	dich	dir	dein-
3rd singular feminine	sie	sie	ihr	ihr-
3rd singular masculine	er	ihn	ihm	sein-
3rd singular neuter	es	es	ihm	sein-
1st plural	wir	uns	uns	unser-
2nd plural	ihr	euch	euch	eur-
3rd plural	sie	sie	ihnen	ihr-
formal (singular and plural)	Sie	Sie	Ihnen	Ihr-

## German Demonstrative Pronouns

Demonstratives usually refer to a previously mentioned noun in a sentence, just like adjectives they must agree with the gender and number of the noun. The equivalent to them in English would be "this/these".

German Demonstratives					
	masculine	feminine	neuter	plural	
<b>Nominative case</b>	dieser	diese	dieses	diese	this/ these
<b>Accusative case</b>	diesen	diese	dieses	diese	this/ these
<b>Dative case</b>	diesem	dieser	diesem	diesen	to this/ these
<b>Genitive cases</b>	dieses	dieser	dieses	dieser	of this/ these

Other Pronouns:

**Relative Pronouns:** in German they are **der, die, das** (who, that, which), **wer, was** (who, that) and **welcher** (who, that). The gender, number, and case of the relative pronoun should agree with its antecedent.

**Interrogative Pronouns:** the most important in German are: **wer** (who), **wen** (whom), **wem** (to whom), **wessen** (whose), **was** (what), **welcher** (which).

**Indefinite pronouns are:** **all-** (all), **ander-** (other), **einig-** (one), **etwas** (some), **jed-** (each), **kein-** (no), **nichts** (nothing), **man** (we, one), **niemand** (no one).