

## MEETING II

# PRONOUNS

### A. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. to explain the functions of pronouns
2. to explain the types of pronouns

### B. MATERIAL DESCRIPTION

#### 1. INTRODUCTION:

### Penguins

There are eighteen different kinds of penguins, and they all live south of equator. The largest are the emperor penguins, which live in Antarctica. They lay their eggs about fifty miles from the coast. There the penguins have nothing to make a nest out of, but the eggs cannot be laid directly on the ice, or they would freeze. The emperor penguins have to take care of their eggs in a special way.

The female produces one egg. As soon as she lays her egg, the male penguin rolls it on top of his feet. A special fold of skin on the bottom of his stomach comes down over the egg to protect it from the cold. For two months the male penguins stand together to protect themselves from the cold with their eggs on their feet. They cannot move or eat.

The female goes to find food as soon as she lays her egg. Finally, after two months she returns and takes egg from the male. The male penguin, which now has had no food for two months, returns to the sea.

After the egg is hatched, the female and the male take turns carrying the baby penguins on their feet. When the weather gets cold, the baby is covered by the fold of skin, which keeps it warm.

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#### Exercise 1:

Pronouns are tested on TOEFL test. Answer the following questions using a pronoun.

1. Where do the emperor penguins live?

.....

2. How many eggs does the female emperor produce at a time?

.....

3. What does the male emperor penguin use to protect the egg from the cold?

.....

4. Why do the male emperor penguins use to protect the egg from the cold?

.....

5. Where do the males put their eggs when they stand together?

.....

6. Where does the female go?

.....

7. When does she return?

.....

8. What does the male penguin do after she returns?

## Exercise 2:

From the reading work out whether these statements are true or false. Mark T if it is true or F if it is false.

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| 1. There are no penguins on the North Pole            | T | F |
| 2. All penguins live south of the equator             | T | F |
| 3. All penguins are the same                          | T | F |
| 4. All penguins have folds under their abdomen        | T | F |
| 5. The fold of skin is used only to keep the egg warm | T | F |
| 6. Only the female takes care of the penguin chick    | T | F |
| 7. Emperor penguins do not make nests                 | T | F |
| 8. Emperor penguins lay their eggs very near the sea  | T | F |

## 2. GRAMMAR: PRONOUNS

There are five forms of pronoun in English: subject pronouns, object pronouns, possessive pronouns, reflexive pronouns, and relative pronouns. Possessive adjectives will also be included in this chapter, although they are not pronouns.

### STRATEGY

It is important to know the five forms of pronouns and the possessive adjectives that are often confused with them. Errors may include the use of one type or form of pronoun in place of another.

#### a. Subject Pronouns

*I      you      they      we      she      he      it*

The subject pronoun is used:

- a. When it is the subject of  
a verb: T **They** live south  
of the equator.
- b. When the subjects of the two clauses are  
compared. *They are more protected against  
the cold than **we** are.*
- c. After the  
verb to be *It*  
is **he** with  
the egg.
- d. After *as* and *than*.  
*She is not as tired as **he** is.*

#### b. Object Pronouns

*Me      You      Him/her/it      us      you      them*

The object pronoun is used:

- a. When it is the direct object of  
a verb *She gives him the egg.*
- b. After prepositions  
*When she returns, she takes over the egg from him.*  
But when the preposition introduces a new clause, the subject pronoun  
must be used because the pronoun is now the subject of the new clause.  
*He leaves after she returns.*
- c. When the objects of two clauses are  
compared *It is easier for them than us.*

**Exercise 4:** Correct the pronoun errors in the following sentences where necessary.

1. He helps she take care of the baby penguin.
2. She lays her egg and then leaves.
3. They feed them until they can swim.
4. It is not easy for they to survive under such conditions.
5. It is harder for him than for she.
6. He goes to the sea after she returns.
- 7.

**c. POSSESSIVE ADJECTIVES**

*My            our            Your            His/her/its            their*

- a) To modify a noun and show ownership.  
*They lay their eggs about fifty miles from the coast.*
- b) To refer to parts of the body.  
*The male penguin rolls the egg on top of his feet.*
- c) To modify a gerund.  
*We are surprised by their nesting in such harsh condition*

**Exercise 5**

1. She lays ..... egg.
2. He has a special fold of skin on the bottom of .....stomach.

3. They take care of .....young in a special way.
4. It is protected from the cold by .....father.
5. They keep the eggs on .....feet.

**d. Possessive Pronouns**

*Mine      yours      his/her/its      ours      yours      theirs*

The possessive pronoun is used

1. To replace a possessive adjective and a noun. *She takes her turn, and he take his (his turn)*
2. After the verb to be. *The egg is hers.*
3. After the preposition *of* when it means “one of many”. *It is a habit of theirs.*
4. To replace the second possessive adjective and noun when they are being compared. *Their life seems more difficult than ours..*

**Exercise 6: circle the correct pronoun**

1. It is an experiment of his/him.
2. The Adelie penguins live in a cold climate, but the emperor penguins live in a harsher climate than them/theirs.
3. Seven nations claim that Antartica is their/theirs.
4. The researcher in the picture is a friend our ours/us.
5. His research was good but her/hers is better.
6. Studying penguins is a hobby of mine/my.

**e. REFLEXIVE PRONOUNS**

*Myself                      yourself                      himself/herself/itself*

The reflexive pronoun is used

- a) To emphasize the subject noun or pronoun it refers to and to emphasize the fact that the subject did the action alone.

*He takes care of the egg himself.*                      Or

*He himself takes care of the egg.*

- b) As the object of a verb when the subject and objects are the same. *They stand together to protect themselves from the cold.*

- c) As the object of the preposition *by* when the subject did the action alone.

*The penguin chick is unable to get food itself.*

**Exercise 7: complete the sentences with the correct reflexive pronoun.**

1. Penguins push .....along the ice using their flippers.
2. To protect.....from the cold, the penguin has a layer of fat under its feathers.
3. The female lays her egg and walks back to the sea by.....
4. During the two months the male penguin cannot.....
5. The male penguin.....incubates the egg.
6. Since humans do not have the insulation that penguins do, we cannot protect ..... from such temperatures without special clothing.

**f. RELATIVE PRONOUNS**

The relative pronouns in English are *who*, *whom*, *whose*, *which*, and *that*.

**STRATEGY**

It is important to make sure that the relative pronoun agrees with that subject

*Who* refers to people and household animals.

*Whom* refers to people and household animals. It is used in the object position in formal written English or with *who* plus a preposition in spoken English.

*Whose* refers to people, animals, and things. It shows possession.

*Which* refers to things, collective nouns, and animals.

*That* refers to people, animals, and things.

**Exercise 8:** correct relative pronoun errors where necessary in the following sentences.

1. There are eighteen different kinds of penguins whom live south of the equator.
2. The biologist which went to the South Pole is studying emperor penguins.
3. Emperor penguins survive winds who blow at speeds up to ninety-five miles an hour in winter.
4. Emperor penguins, who are the largest penguins do not make nests.
5. Emperor penguins, who are the largest among penguins, do not make nests.
6. The United States has sent researchers to Antartica which are making experiments to measure the energy expended by emperor penguins.

### 3. On the TOEFL test

Pronouns are tested in Written Expression action of the exam. Check for the following types of errors with pronouns.

1. The incorrect pronoun form or type may be used. The possessive pronoun (hers) may be used instead of the possessive adjective (her).

Ex: The young emperor chick stands in front of one of it parents to be protected from

A

B

C

D

The cold.



The best answer is C; the possessive form *its* must be used, not the object form.

Ex: Some penguins they live in warmer places like to make their nests in holes  
A B C  
the ground  
D



The correct answer is (A): the relative pronoun *which* or *that* must be used instead of the subject pronoun *they*.

2. The pronoun may not agree with the noun it refers to.

Ex: Sometimes penguins slide on their stomachs, pushing itself with their  
A B C D  
flippers.



The correct answer is (C). The noun *penguins* is plural; therefore, the reflexive pronoun referring to penguins must also be plural. The correct answer is *themselves*.

Ex: Penguins have special glands who remove salt from the water they drink and the  
A B C  
 food they eat.  
D



The best answer is (B); the relative pronoun *who* refers to people. In this sentence, the referent is glands; therefore, either *that* or *which* should be used.

3. Pronouns that are not necessary may be included.

Ex: The male Adelie penguin which may not leave the nest until his mate returns.  
A B C D



The correct answer is (B): the relative pronoun *which* is not necessary in this sentence because there is only one verb, *leave*.



Ex: Under the feathers is a layer of fat that it protects the penguin from the cold.

A
B
C
D

→ The best answer is (C): the pronoun *it* is not necessary.

### C. EXERCISES

: From the four underlined words or phrases (A), (B), (C), or (D), identify the one that is not correct.

1. The penguin chicks cannot go into the water to get themselves own food until they  
A
B  
have waterproof coats of feathers like their parents.  
C
D
2. Balloons rise into their air because they contain a gas who is less dense, or  
A
B
C  
lighter than air.  
D
3. The narwhal is the only animal in the world that has a tusk on only one side of it  
A
B
C  
of it body  
D
4. Silver is too soft to use by itself, so it is mixed with another metal to make  
A
B
C
D  
themselves harder.
5. Most slugs and snail breath using a lung which opens through a small hole in the side of  
A
B
C  
it bodies.  
D

6. Every fuel has their own particular temperature at which it begins to burn.  
A B C D
7. Harriet Tubman, she an escaped slave, led more than three hundred slaves to freedom on  
A B C  
the Underground Railroad.  
D
8. Dreaming, like all other mental processes, it is a product of the brain and its activity.  
A B C D
9. Snails produce a colorless, sticky discharge that forms a protective carpet under them as  
A B C  
their travel along.  
D
10. George Washington Carver won international fame for his agricultural research,  
A B  
who involved extensive work with peanuts.  
C D
11. Enzymes enable the smallest virus to enter cells in order to reproduce themselves.  
A B C D
12. Jack London, whom was known for his stories of Alaska, lived there during the  
A B C  
Klondike gold rush.  
D