

- The **class** was startled by the bursting light bulb.
 - In this sentence the word "class" is a collective noun and takes the singular compound verb "was startled."

Exercise 1

Identify the nouns in the following passage.

• While we were traveling through the countryside we passed a small village. We spotted a postman delivering letters while a greengrocer, dressed in a bottle green shirt was selling vegetables.

Ans:

- | | | | |
|---------------|-----------|--------------|-----------|
| • Countryside | • Letters | • Vegetables | • Village |
| • Greengrocer | • Postman | • Shirt | |

Explanation: Noun is a part of speech (or word class) that is used to name or identify a person, place, thing, quality, or action.

SESSION – 2

PRONOUN

A pronoun is a word used in place of a noun.

- She... we... they... it

A pronoun is usually substituted for a specific noun, which is called its antecedent. In the sentence above, the antecedent for the pronoun she is the girl. Pronouns are further defined by type: personal pronouns refer to specific persons or things; possessive pronouns indicate ownership; reflexive pronouns are used to emphasize another noun or pronoun; relative pronouns introduce a subordinate clause; and demonstrative pronouns identify, point to, or refer to nouns.

- The young girl brought **me** a very long letter from the teacher, and then **she** quickly disappeared.

Personal Pronouns

A **personal pronoun** refers to a specific person or thing and changes its form to indicate person, number, gender, and case.

Subjective Personal Pronouns

A **subjective personal pronoun** 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."

In the following sentences, each of the **highlighted** words is a subjective personal pronoun and acts as the subject of the sentence:

- **I** was glad to find the bus pass in the bottom of the green knapsack.
- **You** are surely the strangest child **I** have ever met.
- **He** stole the money from a shop keeper.
- When **she** was a young woman, **she** earned her living as a coal miner.
- After many years, **they** returned to their homeland.
- **We** will meet at the library at 3:30 p.m.
- **It** is on the counter.
- Are **you** the delegates from Malaga watch?

Objective Personal Pronouns

An **objective personal pronoun** indicates that the pronoun is acting as an object of a verb, compound verb, preposition, or infinitive phrase. The objective personal pronouns are: "me," "you," "her," "him," "it," "us," "you," and "them."

In the following sentences, each of the **highlighted** words is an objective personal pronoun:

- Seamus stole the selkie's skin and forced **her** to live with **him**.
 - The objective personal pronoun "her" is the direct object of the verb "forced" and the objective personal pronoun "him" is the object of the preposition "with."
- After reading the pamphlet, Judy threw **it** into the garbage can.
 - The pronoun "it" is the direct object of the verb "threw."
- The agitated assistant stood up and faced the angry delegates and said, "Our leader will address **you** in five minutes."
 - In this sentence, the pronoun "you" is the direct object of the verb "address."
- Deborah and Roberta will meet **us** at the newest café in the market.
 - Here the objective personal pronoun "us" is the direct object of the compound verb "will meet."
- Give the list to **me**.
 - Here the objective personal pronoun "me" is the object of the preposition "to."
- I'm not sure that my contact will talk to **you**.
 - Similarly in this example, the objective personal pronoun "you" is the object of the preposition "to."
- Christopher was surprised to see **her** at the drag races.
 - Here the objective personal pronoun "her" is the object of the infinitive phrase "to see."

Possessive Personal Pronouns

A **possessive pronoun** indicates that the pronoun is acting as a marker of possession and defines who owns a particular object or person. The **possessive personal pronouns** are "mine," "yours," "hers," "his," "its," "ours," and "theirs." Note that possessive personal pronouns are very similar to possessive adjectives like "my," "her," and "their."

In each of the following sentences, the **highlighted** word is a possessive personal pronoun:

- The smallest gift is **mine**.
 - Here the possessive pronoun "mine" functions as a subject complement.
- This is yours.
 - Here too the possessive pronoun "yours" functions as a subject complement.
- His is on the kitchen counter.
 - In this example, the possessive pronoun "his" acts as the subject of the sentence.
- Theirs will be delivered tomorrow.
 - In this sentence, the possessive pronoun "theirs" is the subject of the sentence.
- Ours is the green one on the corner.
 - Here too the possessive pronoun "ours" function as the subject of the sentence.

Demonstrative Pronouns

A **demonstrative pronoun** points to and identifies a noun or a pronoun. "This" and "these" refer to things that are nearby either in space or in time, while "that" and "those" refer to things that are farther away in space or time.

The demonstrative pronouns are "this," "that," "these," and "those." "This" and "that" are used to refer to singular nouns or noun phrases and "these" and "those" are used to refer to plural nouns and noun phrases. Note that the demonstrative pronouns are identical to demonstrative adjectives, though, obviously, you use them differently. It is also important to note that "that" can also be used as a relative pronoun.

In the following sentences, each of the **highlighted** words is a demonstrative pronoun:

- **This** must not continue.
 - Here "this" is used as the subject of the compound verb "must not continue."
- **This** is puny; **that** is the tree I want.
 - In this example "this" is used as subject and refers to something close to the speaker. The demonstrative pronoun "that" is also a subject but refers to something farther away from the speaker.
- Three customers wanted **these**.
 - Here "these" is the direct object of the verb "wanted."

Interrogative Pronouns

An **interrogative pronoun** is used to ask questions. The interrogative pronouns are "who," "whom," "which," "what" and the compounds formed with the suffix "ever" ("whoever," "whomever," "whichever," and "whatever"). Note that either "which" or "what" can also be used as an interrogative adjective, and that "who," "whom," or "which" can also be used as a relative pronoun.

You will find "who," "whom," and occasionally "which" used to refer to people, and "which" and "what" used to refer to things and to animals.

"Who" acts as the subject of a verb, while "whom" acts as the object of a verb, preposition, or a verbal.

The **highlighted** word in each of the following sentences is an interrogative pronoun:

- **Which** wants to see the dentist first?
 - "Which" is the subject of the sentence.
- **Who** wrote the novel Rockbound?
 - Similarly "who" is the subject of the sentence.
- **Whom** do you think we should invite?
 - In this sentence, "whom" is the object of the verb "invite."
- To **whom** do you wish to speak?
 - Here the interrogative pronoun "whom" is the object of the preposition "to."
- **Who** will meet the delegates at the train station?
 - In this sentence, the interrogative pronoun "who" is the subject of the compound verb "will meet."
- To **whom** did you give the paper?
 - In this example the interrogative pronoun "whom" is the object of the preposition "to."
- **What** did she say?
 - Here the interrogative pronoun "what" is the direct object of the verb "say."

Relative Pronouns

You can use a **relative pronoun** is used to link one phrase or clause to another phrase or clause. The relative pronouns are "who," "whom," "that," and "which." The compounds "whoever," "whomever," and "whichever" are also relative pronouns.

You can use the relative pronouns "who" and "whoever" to refer to the subject of a clause or sentence, and "whom" and "whomever" to refer to the objects of a verb, a verbal or a preposition.

In each of the following sentences, the **highlighted** word is a relative pronoun.

- You may invite **whomever** you like to the party.
 - The relative pronoun "whomever" is the direct object of the compound verb "may invite."
- The candidate **who** wins the greatest popular vote is not always elected.

- In this sentence, the relative pronoun is the subject of the verb "wins" and introduces the subordinate clause "who wins the greatest popular vote." This subordinate clause acts as an adjective modifying "candidate."
- In a time of crisis, the manager asks the workers **whom** she believes to be the most efficient to arrive an hour earlier than usual.
 - In this sentence "whom" is the direct object of the verb "believes" and introduces the subordinate clause "whom she believes to be the most efficient". This subordinate clause modifies the noun "workers."
- **Whoever** broke the window will have to replace it.
 - Here "whoever" functions as the subject of the verb "broke."
- The crate **which** was left in the corridor has now been moved into the storage closet.
 - In this example "which" acts as the subject of the compound verb "was left" and introduces the subordinate clause "which was left in the corridor." The subordinate clause acts as an adjective modifying the noun "crate."
- I will read **whichever** manuscript arrives first.
 - Here "whichever" modifies the noun "manuscript" and introduces the subordinate clause "whichever manuscript arrives first." The subordinate clause functions as the direct object of the compound verb "will read."

Indefinite Pronouns

An **indefinite pronoun** is a pronoun referring to an identifiable but not specified person or thing. An indefinite pronoun conveys the idea of all, any, none, or some.

The most common indefinite pronouns are "all," "another," "any," "anybody," "anyone," "anything," "each," "everybody," "everyone," "everything," "few," "many," "nobody," "none," "one," "several," "some," "somebody," and "someone." Note that some indefinite pronouns can also be used as indefinite adjectives.

The **highlighted** words in the following sentences are indefinite pronouns:

- **Many** were invited to the lunch but only twelve showed up.
 - Here "many" acts as the subject of the compound verb "were invited."
- The office had been searched and **everything** was thrown onto the floor.
 - In this example, "everything" acts as a subject of the compound verb "was thrown."
- We donated **everything** we found in the attic to the woman's shelter garage sale.
 - In this sentence, "everything" is the direct object of the verb "donated."
- Although they looked everywhere for extra copies of the magazine, they found **none**.
 - Here too the indefinite pronoun functions as a direct object: "none" is the direct object of "found."
- Make sure you give **everyone** a copy of the amended bylaws.
 - In this example, "everyone" is the indirect object of the verb "give" -- the direct object is the noun phrase "a copy of the amended bylaws."
- Give a registration package to **each**.
 - Here "each" is the object of the preposition "to."

Reflexive Pronouns

You can use a **reflexive pronoun** to refer back to the subject of the clause or sentence.

The reflexive pronouns are "myself," "yourself," "herself," "himself," "itself," "ourselves," "yourselves," and "themselves." Note each of these can also act as an intensive pronoun.

Each of the **highlighted** words in the following sentences is a reflexive pronoun:

- Diabetics give **themselves** insulin shots several times a day.
- The Dean often does the photocopying **herself** so that the secretaries can do more important work.
- After the party, I asked **myself** why I had faxed invitations to everyone in my office building.
- Richard usually remembered to send a copy of his e-mail to **himself**.
- Although the landlord promised to paint the apartment, we ended up doing it **ourselves**.

Intensive Pronouns

An **intensive pronoun** is a pronoun used to emphasise its antecedent. Intensive pronouns are identical in form to reflexive pronouns.

The **highlighted** words in the following sentences are intensive pronouns:

- I **myself** believe that aliens should abduct my sister.
- The Prime Minister **himself** said that he would lower taxes.
- They **themselves** promised to come to the party even though they had a final exam at the same time.

Exercise 2

Replace the nouns with a suitable pronoun.

1. Paul is studying while Sita is singing.
2. Students are smart.
3. I can trust Sita.
4. The table is made by John.

Exercise 3

Fill in the blanks with suitable pronouns.

1. I blame _____ for the deed.
2. Look at the sun. How bright _____ is!
3. I own the car. It is _____.
4. _____ is there waiting?
5. The pen _____ I bought yesterday was lost.

Exercise 4

Combine the pairs of sentences using the given pronoun.

1. John came late. You wanted to meet him. (whom)

.....

2. The necklace was lost. It was made of gold. (which)

.....

Exercise 2

Replace the nouns with a suitable pronoun.

A pronoun is a part of speech which stands for noun. 'He' for masculine gender 'She' for feminine gender and 'It' for objects.

1. 'Paul' should be replaced by 'He' and 'Sita' should be replaced by 'she'.

Explanation: Since Paul is a male it is replaced by 'He' and Sita is a female so it is replaced by 'She'.

2. Students must be replaced by THEY (3rd person plural)

Explanation: 'THEY' is a pronoun which is used to refer two or more people or things of 3rd person previously mentioned or easily identified.

3. 'Sita' should be replaced by 'she'.

Explanation: Since Sita is a female so it is replaced by 'She'.

4. 'John' is replaced by 'He'.

Explanation: Since John is a male it is replaced by 'He'.

Exercise 3

Fill in with suitable pronouns.

1. Myself

Explanation: When the subject and the object refer to the same person or thing, we use reflexive pronoun. Here 'myself' is a reflexive pronoun of the subject 'I'.

2. It

Explanation: 'It' is the suitable pronoun which is used to denote 'The Sun' which is a 3rd person singular-non being..

3. Mine

Explanation: 'Mine' is a possessive pronoun that demonstrates ownerships.

4. Who

Explanation: The pronoun who, is an interrogative and relative pronoun, used chiefly to refer human beings.

5. That

Explanation: 'That' is a pronoun which is used to refer a specific thing

Exercise 4

Combine the pairs of sentences using the given pronoun.

1. John, whom you wanted to meet, came late.

Explanation: 'Whom' is also an interrogative pronoun; it is used in place of the object of a question. And 'whom' can be used in statements, in place of the object of a clause.

2. The necklace, which was made of gold, was last.

Explanation: It is used as a function word to introduce a relative clause and to modify a noun in that clause and to refer together with that noun.