

Pronoun

Pronouns are words that substitute a noun or another pronoun.

EXAMPLES :

- Sara is a nurse.
⇒ **She** is a nurse.
- The tools used are sterile.
⇒ **They** are sterile.

Subject pronoun:

A subject pronoun – **I ; you ; he ; she ; it ; we ; they** – is used as substitute for proper and common nouns. It is the subject of a verb.

EXAMPLES :

- **Her** medication made her temporarily dizzy.
- Becoming a surgeon has always been **my** dream.

A subject pronoun indicates :

- **Number** : Singular or plural.
- **Gender** : Male or female.
- **Person** : First, second or third person.

Object pronoun:

An object pronoun, – **Me ; you ; him ; her ; it ; us ; them** – is used as substitute for object nouns. It functions as the object of a verb or a preposition.

EXAMPLES :

- The surgeon asked **me** to scrub in with **him**.
- When the gynecologist diagnosed **her** with a vaginal melanoma, he published an article about **it**.

Possessive pronoun:

A possessive pronoun attributes ownership to someone or something. It substitutes a noun phrase and can prevent its repetition.

EXAMPLES :

- That labcoat is **mine**, not **yours**.
- That Pinard horn is **hers**.

A possessive pronoun differs from a *possessive adjective*. [See « *Possessive adjective* » in Adjective].

Demonstrative pronoun:

[See « *Demonstrative adjective* » in Adjective].

Relative pronoun:

A relative pronoun is a pronoun that introduces a relative clause within a complex sentence. The relative pronouns are : **Who ; Whom ; Whose ; Which ; That**.

EXAMPLES :

- He took a photo of the tumor **that** he had removed.
- A lot of women still die of breast cancer, **which** is very sad.
- The medical student **whom** I told you about it ready to volunteer at the Ob/Gyn ER.

Reflexive pronoun:

A reflexive pronoun is used when the object is the same as the subject.

EXAMPLES :

- The doctor blames **himself** for the death of the pregnant woman.
- Pay attention! You might cut **yourself** with the scalpel.

A reflexive pronoun is also used for emphasis. In this case, it's called **intensive pronoun**.

Intensive pronouns can be removed without changing the meaning of the sentence.

EXAMPLES :

- The professeur **himself** announced the bad news to the patient.
- I **myself** would never harm a patient.

A reflexive pronoun may be used as the object of a preposition.

EXAMPLES :

- She delivered the baby at home, all by **herself**.
- The doctors suspected a postpartum psychosis when she started talking to **herself**.

Summary :

Subject pronouns	Object pronouns	Reflexive pronouns	Possessive pronouns	Possessive adjectives
I	Me	Myself	Mine	My
You	You	Yourself	Yours	Your
He	Him	Himself	His	His
She	Her	Herself	Hers	Her
It	It	Itself	Its	Its
We	Us	Ourselves	Ours	Our
You	You	Yourselves	Yours	Your
They	Them	Themselves	Theirs	Their