



4 Pronouns II: Personal Pronouns



There are different kinds of pronouns. In this chapter, we shall look at only one of them: *personal pronouns*.

These pronouns are called personal pronouns because we use them to refer

- (a) to ourselves,
- (b) to people we are talking to, and
- (c) to people we are talking about.

When we tell somebody something, *three persons* are usually involved:

- (a) the *speaker* or the person who is saying something;
- (b) the *person spoken to* or the person to whom the speaker is saying something;
- (c) the *person spoken of* or the person about whom the speaker is saying something.

Remember that we are using the word *person* here in a general sense, that is, to refer to anything living or non-living.

The king told Ali, 'I must ask you to forgive Salim for what he has done.'

1. The pronoun *I* refers to the speaker, the king.
2. The pronoun *you* refers to the person spoken to, that is *Ali*, to whom the king is speaking.
3. The pronoun *he* refers to the person spoken of, that is *Salim*, about whom the king is telling Ali something.



The personal pronoun *I*, which refers to the person who is speaking, is known as the *first person*.

The personal pronoun *you*, which refers to the person who is being spoken to, is known as the *second person*.

The personal pronoun *he*, which refers to the person spoken of, is known as the *third person*.

The different forms of the three personal pronouns are given in the tables that follow. Study them carefully.

Person	Singular	Plural
First Person	I	We
	me	us
	(my)	(our)
	mine	ours

1. Remember that *I* is always written with a capital 'I', never with a small 'i'.
2. The forms *mine* and *ours* are called *possessive pronouns*.
3. The forms *my* and *our* are called *possessive adjectives* because they act like adjectives.

You will learn the use of the forms *my*, *mine*, *our*, *ours* in Chapter 5.

Person	Singular	Plural
Second Person	thou	ye
	thee	you
	(thy)	(your)
	thine	yours

4. We now usually use *you* for *thou*, *thee* and *ye*, and *your* and *yours* instead of *thy* and *thine*.
5. The forms *thou*, *ye*, *thee*, *thy* and *thine* are now seldom used, and then only sometimes in prayers and poems.

6. We use the plural forms *you, yours, your* whether we are talking to *one* or *more than one* person.
7. The form *yours* is known as a *possessive pronoun*.
8. The form *your* is called a *possessive adjective* because it acts like an adjective. You will learn the use of the forms *your, yours* in Chapter 5.

Person	Singular			Plural
	Masculine	Feminine	Common/Neuter	
Third Person	he	she	it	they
	him	her	it	them
	(his)	(her)	(its)	(their)
	his	hers	×	theirs

9. The forms *hers, theirs* are known as *possessive pronouns*.
10. The form *her* (as in *her book*) and *their* are known as *possessive adjectives* because they act like adjectives.
11. The form *his* is used both as a *possessive pronoun* and as a *possessive adjective*.
12. The form *its* can be used only as a *possessive adjective*.

You will learn the use of all the forms used as *possessive adjectives* and *possessive pronouns* in Chapter 5.

A Pick out the **personal pronouns**, excepting the **possessive adjectives** and **possessive pronouns**, from the following sentences. Mention of what kind (**first, second** or **third person**) each is and its number (**singular** or **plural**).

1. You should always try to keep a promise that you have made.
2. I listened patiently to what he had to say about them.
3. They packed their belongings and left. I do not know where they have gone.



4. Susan told her mother that she was not feeling well.
5. We were waiting for him to come and tell us what had happened to you.
6. The dog stopped barking as soon as I gave it a biscuit.
7. Let us ask mother when we can go to the Science Exhibition.
8. The teacher told her to take proper care of her books.
9. You must not act hastily. Look before you leap.
10. The mechanic said that he could repair the car and have it painted.
11. We went out for a walk and saw them sitting on a bench in the park.
12. The doctor advised him to take the medicine he had prescribed every day.



B Fill in the blanks with *appropriate forms of personal pronouns*:

1. We were told that should learn the poem by heart.
2. I told John that shall teach how to fly a kite.
3. '..... am going out. Can please look after my dog for an hour?' asked my neighbour, Mr Das.
4. We do not know what to do. Can please help?
5. '..... have repeatedly told not to leave the door open. But never listen to me!' Mother told Sunit.



6. The forest guard told that I should not go out alone at night as might be attacked by a wild animal.
7. Rita said, '..... cannot dance tonight, because have twisted my ankle.'
8. Can tell me the time? have lost my watch.
9. He saw the snake just when was going into a hole.
10. The man lived in a flat. had several rooms.
11. must buy your ticket right now or will be disappointed.
12. Our teacher asked to help the new boy. was very shy and quiet.
13. We went to watch a play. was dull and boring. walked out of the theatre after an hour.
14. The players were tired. wanted to rest for a few days.
15. The children were sad that could not go on a picnic. So, a class party was held for

