

2 Chapter Two

Noun & Pronoun

Each word in English has a family. There are 10 such families or groups or categories

Noun	Preposition	Adverb	Conjunction	Interjection
Pronoun	Verb	Adjective	Article	Auxiliary

Noun = Name of person, Place, or thing

Noun (success), verb (succeed), adjective (successful),
adverb (successfully)

Examples-

a person	a teacher, a man, Mahesh, Rupal, a Frenchman, a queen
a thing	a pencil, a computer, a hamburger, a political party, a table
Animal/plant	a cat, an elephant, a caterpillar, blue algae, pineapple
a place	Paris, Africa, church, school, a mountain, airport, Mumbai
abstract idea	love, freedom, attitude, education, liberalism

Type of noun

1.Common noun– common nouns are names of any class of persons, places, animals, or things.

- girl, grandmother, doctor, bicycle, pen, etc.

2.Proper noun– proper nouns are names of particular persons, places, animals or things.

- Radha, Aakash, Mt.Everest, Delhi, etc

pronoun

3. Collective noun– collective nouns name collections of persons or thing of the same kind/group

- a pride of lions, a swarm of flies, a fleet of ships

4. Abstract nouns– it refers to qualities which can not be seen or touched

- joy, intelligence, loyalty, faith

Pronoun

The word used to replace noun is pronoun.

- The man ran. **He** was being chased. [‘He’ is pronoun]

There are 7 basic pronouns – I, WE, YOU, HE, SHE, IT, THEY.

- **He-** is used for male human & animal.
- **It** - is used for the things & small babies

We mainly use *it* when speaking about animals. If the animal is a pet, we often use *he / him* or *she / her*:

Person	Personal pronoun		Possessive personal pronoun
First-person	I	ME	MINE
	We	US	OURS
Second-person	YOU	YOU	YOURS
Third-person	HE	HIM	HIS
	SHE	HER	HERS
	IT	IT	ITS
	THEY	THEM	THEIRS

Note that- **my, our, your, her & their** are possessive adjective.

- Your car is black (possessive adjective)
- That car of yours is black! (possessive pronoun)

Meaning of above both the sentences is the same.

pronoun

Types of pronouns	
• Personal pronoun	• Possessive pronoun
• Demonstrative pronoun	• Reflexive pronoun
• Emphatic pronoun	• Indefinite pronoun
• Reciprocal pronoun	• Relative
• Distributive pronoun	• Interrogative pronoun

1. Personal pronouns

We use personal pronouns in place of the person or people that we are talking about. My name is Mahesh but when I am talking about myself I almost always use "I" or "me", not "Mahesh". When I am talking directly to you, I almost always use "you", not your name. When I am talking about another person, say Rakesh, I may start with "Rakesh" but then I will use "he" or "him" for Rakesh. And so on.

Examples of Personal pronouns

- **I** like coffee. / John helped **me**. / John loves **you**.
- **He** runs fast. / Did Ram beat **him**? / **She** is clever.
- Does Mary know **her**? / **It** doesn't work. / Can the man fix **it**?
- **We** went home. / Anthony drove **us**.
- **They** played doubles. / John and Mary beat **them**.

When we talk about a single thing, we almost always use **it**.

We often use **it** to introduce a remark:

- **It** is important to dress well. / **It's** difficult to find a job.

We also often use **it** to talk about the weather, temperature, time and distance:

- **It's** raining. / **It** will probably be hot tomorrow.
- **Is** it nine o'clock yet? / **It's** 50 kilometres from here to Gandhinagar.

2. Possessive pronouns

These demonstrate ownerships.

e.g.- my, mine, our, ours, its, his, her, hers, their, theirs, your and yours - all words that demonstrate ownership.

- The house is theirs. / We shall finally have what is rightfully ours.
- The dog is mine. / The cat is yours. / The ring is hers. / The bag is theirs.

We use possessive pronouns to refer to a specific person or thing

- I like your flowers. Do you like **mine**?
- My flowers are dying. **Yours** are lovely.
- All the essays were good but **his** was the best.
- John found his clothes but Mary couldn't find **hers**.
- Your photos are good. **Ours** are terrible.
- These aren't John and Mary's children. **Theirs** have black hair.

3. Demonstrative Pronouns-

When we want to point at (demonstrate) a certain person or object, we use our index finger (first finger) to show it.

	near •	far ⇒
singular	this	that
plural	these	those

THAT, THESE, THOSE and **SUCH** are the demonstrative pronouns.

- This is my pen. / These are my pens / That is a good house.
- The climate in Simla is like that of Srinagar.
- The roads in Chennai are wider than those of Kolkata.

4. Reflexive Pronouns

Reflexive pronouns are formed by the addition of the suffix **self** (singular) or **selves** (plural) to pronouns such as **my, your, her, him, it, them,** and **our**.

- My + self = Myself / Your + self = Yourself
- Our + selves = Ourselves / Them + selves=Themselves
- It + self = Itself

When the subject, and the object refer to the same person, a reflexive pronoun is used for the object.

- I cut myself. (Here the subject, the object refer to the same person- I.)
- The child cut itself. / We cut ourselves.

5. Emphatic Pronouns

When reflexive pronouns are used to put emphasis on a particular noun they are called emphatic pronouns.

- He **himself** told me this. / I finished the job **myself**.
- They **themselves** admitted their mistake.
- We **ourselves** witnessed the accident.

Difference between Emphatic pronouns & Reflexive Pronouns

- He cut himself. (Reflexive) / He himself cut the cake. (Emphatic)
- I spoke to the principal myself. (Emphatic)
- You must blame yourself for the loss. (Reflexive)

6. Indefinite Pronouns

To point at certain a person or thing we use a demonstrative pronoun. For refer to a (uncertain) person or thing in a general way, we use indefinite pronouns, which are-

- all, another, any, anybody/anyone, anything, each, everybody/ everyone, few everything, many, nobody, none, one, several, some, somebody/someone

Examples of Indefinite Pronouns		
Singular pronoun m=meaning e=example		
Another	m	an additional or different person or thing
	e	That ice-cream was good. Can I have another ?
anybody/ anyone	m	no matter what a person
	e	Can anyone answer this question?
Anything	m	no matter what thing
	e	Doctor asked “ if you have eaten anything in last two hours.
Each	m	every one of two or more people or things, see separately
	e	Each has his own thoughts.
Either	m	one or the other of two people or things
	e	Do you want tea or coffee? I don't mind. Either is good for me.
Enough	m	as much or as many as needed
	e	We have enough funds for this work.
Everybody/ Everyone	m	all people
	e	We can start the meeting because everybody has arrived.
Everything	m	all things
	e	They have no house. They lost everything in the earthquake.
Less	m	a smaller amount
	e	The quantity of milk was less than the requirement

Pronoun

Little	m	a small amount
	e	Little is known about his early life.
Much	m	a large amount
	e	Much has happened since we met.
Neither	m	not one, and not the other of two people or things
	e	I keep telling Jack and Jill but neither believes me.
One	m	an unidentified person
	e	Can one smoke here? / All the students arrived except one .
Other	m	a different person or thing from one already mentioned
	e	One was tall and the other was short.
nobody/ no-one	m	no person
	e	I phoned many times but nobody answered.
nothing	m	no single thing, not anything
	e	If you don't know the answer it's best to say nothing .
somebody/ someone	m	an unspecified or unknown person
	e	Clearly, somebody murdered him. It was not suicide.
something	m	an unspecified or unknown thing
	e	Listen! I just heard something ! What could it be?
both	m	two people or things, seen together
	e	John likes coffee but not tea. I think both are good.
few	m	a small number of people or things
	e	Few have ever disobeyed him and lived.
fewer	m	a reduced number of people or things
	e	Fewer are smoking these days.
many	m	a large number of people or things
	e	Many have come already.

Pronoun

others	m	other people; not us
	e	I'm sure that others have tried before us.
several	m	more than two but not many
	e	They all complained and several left the meeting.
any	m	no matter how much or how many
	e	Is any left? / Are any coming?
more	m	a greater quantity of something a greater number of people or things
	e	There is more over there. / More are coming.
most	m	the majority; nearly all
	e	Most are lost./ Most have refused.
none	m	not any; no person or persons
	e	They fixed the water so why is none coming out of the tap? I invited five friends but none have come.
some	m	an unspecified quantity of something; an unspecified number of people or things
	e	Here is some . / Some have arrived.
such	m	of the type already mentioned
	e	He was a foreigner and he felt that he was treated as such .

Note- none=no one Thus “none” is singular. However, use of it in the plural is also correct. Look examples.

- I invited five friends but none **has/have** come (both are correct)

7. Reciprocal pronouns- Each other & One another

Reciprocal= expressing mutual action

We use reciprocal pronouns when each of two or more subjects is acting in the same way towards the other.

For example, Rakesh is talking to Mahesh, and Mahesh is talking to Rakesh. So we say: Rakesh and Mahesh are talking to **each other**.

There are only two reciprocal pronouns, and they are both two words:

- **each other**
- **one another**

Examples-

- Mahesh and Rina love **each other**.
- The ten prisoners were all blaming **one another**.
- Both teams played hard against **each other**.
- We gave **each other** gifts.
- The gangsters were fighting **one another**

Generally when we talk about two persons or things 'Each other' is used.

For more than two 'One another' is used.

8. Relative Pronouns- who, whose, whom, which & that

We use **who** and **whom** for people, and **which** for things.

Or we can use **that** for people or things.

We use relative pronouns :

(i) **after** a noun, to **make it clear** which person or thing we are talking about:

- The house **that / which** Jack built
- The woman **who** discovered radium

(ii) to tell us more about a person or thing :

- Lord Thompson, **who is very kind**, is my teacher.
- We had fish and chips, **which is my favourite meal**.

pronoun

- The person **whom** I phoned last night is my teacher.
The person **who** I phoned last night is my teacher.
The person **that** I phoned last night is my teacher.
The person I phoned last night is my teacher.
- The car **which** I drive **is** old. / The cars **which** I drive **are** old.
The car **that** I drive is old. / The car I drive is old.

We use **whose** as the **possessive** form of **who**:

- The car, **which** I was driving at the time, suddenly caught fire.
- The student **whose** phone just rang should stand up.
- Students **whose** parents are wealthy pay extra.
- The police are looking for the car **whose** driver was masked.
The police are looking for the car **of which** the driver was masked.

We sometimes use **whom** as the **object** of a verb or preposition:

- Mr.George, **whom** I like very much, is my teacher.
- Mr.George, **who** I like very much, is my teacher.
- This is his son, with **whom** I went to school.

Note- “whom” is correct but formal. ”who” is common in spoken English and in formal written English. Native English speaker use “who” instead of “whom” nowadays

9.Distributive Pronouns- EACH, EITHER, NEITHER.

- Each means ‘**all**’ / either means ‘**one or the other**’.
- Neither means ‘**not one or the other**’

Examples–

- Each of the shirts costs Rs.100.
- Either of you can go to the movie.(means the only one can go to the movie)
- Neither of the reports is true. The game was a draw.

pronoun

Note that a distributive pronoun is always singular hence it should be followed by a singular noun and verb.

- **Each new day** is different. (NOT –Each new **days** are different.)
- **Either girl** can do that. (NOT- Either **girl** can do that.)
- **Neither answer** is correct. (NOT- Neither answers are correct.)

Notes- **Each of**, **neither of**, and **either of** are followed by plural nouns and singular verbs.

- **Each of the answers** is true. (NOT- Each of the answers is true.)
- **Neither of the girls** can do that. (NOT- Either of the girl can do that.)

Either and **neither** should be used only in speaking of two persons or things. For more than two persons or things, **any**, **no one** or **none** should be used.

- **None of the three answers** is correct.
- We invited several friends, but **none** came.
- You can take **any of the three shirts**.)

(Also refer lesson **Quantifiers- Each & Every & Either & Neither** in this book)

We use interrogative pronouns to ask questions.

Four main interrogative pronouns are:- **who**, **whom**, **what** & **which**

Notice possessive pronoun **whose** can also, be an interrogative pronoun.

	subject	object
person	who	whom
thing	what	
person/ thing	which	
person	whose	

pronoun

Notice that **whom** is the correct form when the pronoun is the object of the verb, as in "**Whom** did you see?" ("I saw Mahesh") However, in normal, spoken English we rarely use **whom**. Most native speakers would say (or even write): "**Who** did you see?"

Look at these example questions. In the sample answers, the noun phrase that the interrogative pronoun represents is shown **in bold**.

Question	Answer
Who told you?	Mahesh told me.
Whom did you tell?	I told Kavya .
What's happened?	An accident's happened.
What do you want?	I want coffee .
Which car came first?	The Maruti Suzuki car came first.
There's one car missing. Whose (car) hasn't arrived?	Divya's (car) hasn't arrived.

Note that we sometimes use the suffix "-ever" to make compounds from some of these pronouns such as **whoever**, **whatever**, **whichever**, **to whom soever**. We do so for emphasis.

- **Whoever** would want to do such a nasty thing?
- **Whatever** did he say to make her cry like that?
- They're all fantastic! **Whichever** will you choose?
- To **whom so ever** it may