

8. Pronouns

A pronoun is a noun equivalent. It is always used instead of a noun. A pronoun must be always used only after mentioning the noun, instead of which the pronoun is to be used, first.

The pronouns are of four kinds namely:

1. Personal pronouns
2. Demonstrative pronouns
3. Relative or conjunctive pronouns
4. Interrogative pronouns

PERSONAL PRONOUNS:

These pronouns are so called because they stand for the three persons:

- The first person, which denotes the person speaking.
- The second person, which denotes the listener or the person spoken to.
- The third person, which denotes the person or things spoken of.

Forms of Personal Pronouns: These pronouns have the same differences of general number and case that nouns have.

- First person common gender.

Case	Singular	Plural
Nominative	I	We
Acc. And Dat	Me	Us
Genitive	My, Mine	Our, ours

- Second person, masculine or feminine.

Case	Singular	Plural
Nom. And Voc.	You	you
Acc. And Dat	You	You
Genitive	Your, yours	Your ,Yours

- Third person, of all genders.

Case	Singular			Plural
	Masculine	Feminine	Neuter	All Gender
Nominative	He	She	It	They
Acc. And Dat	Him	Her	It	Them
Genitive	He	Her, Hers	Its	Their, Theirs

The above personal pronouns are once again classified into following classes.

- **Personal Pronouns:** The forms of Pronouns in subject and object cases of first, second and third persons are called personal pronouns.
- **Possessive Pronouns:** The six forms, "Mine, Ours, Yours, His, Hers and Theirs" are called possessive pronouns because;
 - They are separated from the noun by a verb coming in between.
 - When they are preceded by the preposition "of".

Example:

- This is my (possessive adjective) book.
- This book is mine (possessive pronoun).
- **Reflexive pronouns are Emphasizing Pronouns:** These pronouns are used for two purposes;
 - To show that the person or thing does something to himself or some other person.
 - To make the pronouns more emphatic for which they are called emphasising pronouns. These pronouns are formed by suffixing self or own to the personal pronouns.

Example:

- I + self = myself
- We + self = ourselves
- You + self = yourself, your selves
- He + self = himself
- She + self = herself
- It + self = itself
- They self = themselves

Note:

- Without mentioning the noun or pronoun, to which the reflexive pronoun is to be used, the reflexive pronoun must not be used directly; i.e. a sentence never starts with a reflexive noun.
- The reflexive pronoun must always agree with the person number and gender of the noun or pronoun to which it is reflexive.
- A reflex pronoun must be present in a clause, according to context, when a clause contains any one of the words like, "Present, Absent, Introduce, Prostrate, Enjoy, Avail, Hide, Disburse, Dress, etc."

Example:

- The wall (noun) fell itself. (reflexive noun)
- I (pronoun) myself (reflexive pronoun) saw the lion.

DEMONSTRATIVE PRONOUNS:

A word that not only points to an antecedent, but also functions instead of such antecedent, is called a demonstrative pronoun.

Antecedent = The noun placed before the usage of pronoun or which is already in speaker's mind, is called an antecedent.

Example:

- Their views (antecedent) are different from those (DPN) of the chairman.
- This horse (antecedent) is black and that (DPN) is white.
- You have a black coat (antecedent) and I have a white one (DPN).

Usage of "It" as a Demonstrative Pronoun: The word it functions as a demonstrative pronoun:

- Instead of a neuter noun that is going before.

Example: The Sun has risen, it shines brightly.

- Pointing to a clause going before.

Example: I have treated him as he deserved ("I have treated him as he deserved" is a clause) and he knows it (DPN).

- Pointing to a clause coming after

Example: It (DPN) is probable that it will rain today ("that it will rain today" is a clause).

- Pointing to a phrase coming after.

Example: It (DPN) is very happy to hear such a good news ("to hear such a good news" is a phrase).

Usage of One, Ones, None:

The word "one" is used when the antecedent is in singular number whereas the word, "ones" is used when the antecedent is plural number. The word "none" is the shortened form of "not one", but may stand either for a singular or a plural noun.

Example:

- He gained a prize last year; but he did not gain one this year.
- There were six lazy boys and four industrious ones.

- You have a book but I have none.
- Bring me some pins, I have none.

Indefinite Demonstrative Pronouns: Sometimes demonstrative pronouns are used indefinitely i.e. they are not used as substitutes for some noun expressly mentioned, but for some noun understood or implied.

Example:

- All have come to class.
- Some are born great.
- Many are called but few are chosen.

Relative or Conjunctive Pronouns (RPN):

A word, that not only functions as a demonstrative pronoun but also functions as a conjunction in joining two clauses is called a relative or conjunctive pronoun.

Example:

- This is the student. (antecedent) He (DPN) got a gold medal in the university examinations.
- This is the student who (DPN & Conjunction - RPN) got a gold medal in the university examinations.

Note:

- The relative pronoun must be always in such case, as the demonstrative pronoun replaced it.
- The relative pronoun must be always placed immediately after the antecedent.

Forms of Relative Pronouns:

Case	Singular and Plural	Singular and Plural
	Masculine and Feminine	Neuter Non-living things
Nominative	Who	Which
Acc. Dat.	Whom	Which
Genitive	Whose	Whose (or) of which

- **Who** – This pronoun is used for persons in nominative or subject case.

Example:

- Sarada is my sister. She works as a Lecturer in Govt. Women's College.

- Sarada, who works as a lecturer in Govt. Women's College ("who works as lecturer in Govt. Women's College" is a relative clause), is my sister

- **Whom** - This pronoun is used for a person in object case.

Example:

- Mr. Saxena is a professor of Physics. Your brother met him yesterday at the university campus.
- Mr. Saxena, Whom your brother met yesterday at university campus ("Whom your brother met yesterday at university campus" is a relative clause), is a professor of Physics

- **Whose** - This pronoun is used for persons and things in possessive case.

Example:

- This is the soldier. His arm was lost during war.
- This is the soldier, whose arm was lost during war ("whose arm was lost during war" is a relative clause).
- This is an equilateral triangle. Its sides are equal.
- This is an equilateral triangle, whose sides are equal ("whose sides are equal" is a relative clause).

- **Which** - This pronoun is used for non-living objects in subject and object cases.

Example:

- This is the house. It was bought by my father
- This is the house, which was bought by my father ("which was bought by my father" is a relative clause).
- This is the Bicycle. The police found it at the railway station
- This is the Bicycle, which the police found at the railway station

- **That** - This word can be used instead of "Who, Whom, Which" as a relative pronoun but not for "whose".

Example:

- Happy is the man. He is content.
- Happy is the man that is content.
- This is the House. Jack built.
- This is the house that Jack built it.

Note: The relative pronoun, "**that**" is compulsory instead of "**Who, Whom, or Which**"

- When the first clause is in superlative degree.

Example:

- He is the worst man. I have ever met him.
- He is the worst man that ("He is the worst man that" is a superlative degree RPN) I have ever met.
- When the first clause contains any one of the words like, "all, (the) same, (the) only, none".

Example:

- All is not gold. It glitters.
- All, that glitters ("that glitters" is a relative clause), is not gold.
- This is the same car. I also have it.
- This is the same car that I also have.
- Man is the only animal. It can laugh.
- Man is the only animal that can laugh.
- There was none (antecedent). He was not moved to tears.
- There was none that was not moved to tears.
- As-The word "as" can be used for a relative noun, provided it is preceded by "Such, as, or the same".

Example:

- This is not such a good book. I expected it.
- This is not such a good book as I expected.
- I collected as many questions. I could find them.
- I collected as many questions as I could find them.

Note: When the first clause contains "The same"

- "That" must be the relative pronoun when the verb is expressed in relative clause.

Example: This is the same car that (RPN) also have (verb).

- The relative pronoun must be "as" when the verb is understood but not expressed.

Example:

- This is the same car. I also have it.
- This is the same car as mine ("as mine" is a RPN – relative clause)
- What-When the unexpressed antecedent belongs to neuter gender the relative pronoun is "What".

Example:

- I can't tell you now. It has happened.
- I can't tell you now what has happened.
- But-The conjunction "but", when some demonstrative pronoun is understood after it, is used in the sense of "who not" or "which not".

Example:

- There is no child (antecedent). It (DPN) likes candy.
- There is no child, but (RPN - who doesn't like) likes candy.
- There was no one present but (RPN - who did not see) saw the deed.

Interrogative Pronouns: The words "Who, What, and Which" are called interrogative pronouns when they are used in the question forms.

- The word "who" enquires about the name or parentage of some person.
- The word "what" enquires a thing or social status.
- The word "which" enquires about which particular person (out of a definite group of persons).

Note: When two or more pronouns are used in a place

- Second person and first person – you and I.
- Third person and first person – he, she, it and I.
- Second person and third person – you, he, she, it.
- Second person, third person and first person – you, he, she, it, and, I.
- After the five "be" forms "Is, Am, Are, Was, Were", the forms of pronoun must be in subject case.
- When the gender of the noun is common gender or not specific, the pronoun is third person singular number and masculine gender generally i.e. "he".