

Pronouns

Pronouns

are words that are used in place of nouns

are used to avoid unnatural speech and repetition

can be divided into

- definite pronouns
- indefinite pronouns

Pronouns

are used to avoid unnatural speech and repetition

Example:

John said that ***John*** was looking for ***John's*** hat.

Or:

John said that ***he*** was looking for ***his*** hat.

I said that ***I*** was looking for ***my*** hat.

Definite Pronouns

Definite pronouns replace specific nouns and can be further divided into

- subject pronouns
- object pronouns
- possessive pronouns
- personal pronouns
- reflexive pronouns
- intensive pronouns
- demonstrative pronouns
- interrogative pronouns

Subject Pronouns

replace nouns that are the subject in a sentence.

replace a name to avoid repetition.

are: I, he, she, it, we, you, they.

Examples:

- **I** am a teacher.
- The car is damaged and **it** needs to be repaired.
- **We** are hungry.
- **You** drank my beer.

Object Pronouns

replace a direct or indirect object in a sentence.

are: me, him, her, it, us, you, them.

Examples:

- You gave the book to ***me***.
- I can't find ***it***.
- Invite ***them*** to dinner tomorrow.
- Suzi works for ***him***.

Possessive Pronouns

replace possessive nouns.

can be either the subject or object in a sentence.

are: my, mine, his, her, hers, its, our, ours, your, yours, their, theirs.

Examples:

- The bag is ***mine***. It's ***my*** bag.
- Have you done ***your*** homework?
- This is ***our*** house. This house is ***ours***.
- That is ***their*** car. That car is ***theirs***.

Personal Pronouns

are used to represent a person (or people) in a sentence.

can also be used to represent animals, objects or ideas.

can be the subject or object in a sentence.

Examples:

- **You** drank **my** beer.
- **He** helped Suzi with **her** coat.
- **We** will win the cup – **my** team is unbeatable.

Reflexive Pronouns #1

are used in place of a person or thing that is both the subject *and* object of the same verb.

Examples:

- I saw ***myself*** in the mirror.
- We heard ***ourselves*** singing.

However:

- He heard ourselves singing (incorrect – different subject and object)
- He heard us singing (correct version)

Reflexive Pronouns #2

The full list of reflexive pronouns are

- myself
- yourself
- himself
- herself
- itself
- oneself
- ourselves
- yourselves
- themselves

Reflexive Pronouns #3

are never used as the subject.

can only act as the object, and only when the person or thing has been used as the subject.

Incorrect examples:

- Myself saw me in the mirror. (I saw myself in the mirror)
- Ourselves heard us singing. (We heard ourselves singing)

Intensive Pronouns

are used to emphasise the subject in a sentence.

are not the object of an action.

are very similar to reflexive pronouns.

Examples:

- I made that cake ***myself***.
- You told me the location ***yourself***.
- The President ***himself*** wrote me a letter.

Demonstrative Pronouns

are used to replace nouns that are close by (this, these).

are used to replace nouns that are far away (that, those).

require context to identify the nouns that they replace.

Examples:

- I made **this** cake myself.
- You will like **these** cookies.
- **That** is Suzi over there.
- I like **those** houses.

Interrogative Pronouns

are used in questions to replace nouns.

can be the subject or object in a sentence.

can be used in direct, indirect or reported questions.

main ones are who, whom, whose, which, what.

Examples:

- **Who** is coming to the party tonight? (direct question)
- Could you tell me **whose** these are? (indirect question)
- She wants to know **which** is correct. (reported question)
- You're wearing **what** to the party? (indirect question, emphasis)

Who and Whom

Who is used for the subject in a sentence.

Whom is used for the object in a sentence.

The easy trick is to link who to he, and **whom** to him.

Examples:

➤ **Who** is coming to the party tonight? (he is coming)

➤ To **whom** do these shoes belong? (they belong to him)

However, the use of whom sounds very archaic and strange these days.

It will probably disappear entirely within the next 100 years.

➤ **Who** do these shoes belong to?

Indefinite Pronouns

are placed in the same location as the noun it replaces.

do not refer to a specific noun and can be formed with variations of

- any
- some
- every
- no

Indefinite Pronouns with *any*

refer to indefinite and incomplete quantities.

are used in questions where the answer is not known.

are used with 'not' to emphasise negative sentences.

Examples:

- Do they have ***any*** children?
- Are you going ***anywhere*** nice on your holidays?
- She doesn't want ***any*** cake.
- I don't want ***anything*** to do with him.

Indefinite Pronouns with *some*

refer to indefinite and incomplete quantities.

are used in questions where you think you know the answer.

are used in questions to ask for, or to offer, something.

Examples:

- We drank ***some*** beer last night.
- ***Someone***'s been sleeping in my bed.
- Are you going ***somewhere*** nice on your holidays?
- Would you like ***some*** tea?

Indefinite Pronouns with *every*

refer to plurals but are considered singular.

refer to a group of people, things, or places.

Examples:

- We can start – ***everybody*** is here.
- It will be a big party – ***everyone*** is invited.
- They lost ***everything*** in the fire.
- I can't find my phone – I've looked ***everywhere*** for it.

Indefinite Pronouns with *no*

refer to plurals but are considered singular.

refer to an absence of people, things, or places.

Examples:

- She is very lonely – ***nobody*** visits her.
- We made all that food and ***no one*** came.
- This town is dull – ***nothing*** ever happens here.
- There was ***nowhere*** to park the car.

Indefinite Pronouns Placement

They are placed in the same location as the noun(s) they replace.

Examples:

- I won't tell ***Paul*** what you did. I won't tell ***anyone*** what you did.
- He gave me ***a present***. He gave me ***something***.
- We bought ***the food*** there. We bought ***everything*** there.