

Pronoun

A **pronoun** (from Latin *pro*, meaning "for" or "in place of," and *nomen*, meaning "name") is a word that functions as a substitute for a noun or a noun phrase (a group of words acting as a noun). Its fundamental purpose is to refer to an entity—a person, place, thing, or idea—that has already been mentioned or is otherwise understood in the context. This previously mentioned noun or noun phrase is known as the **antecedent**.

Grammar Rules:

- **Rule 1.1 (Agreement):** A pronoun must agree with its antecedent in **number** (singular/plural), **gender** (masculine/feminine/neuter), and **person** (first/second/third).
- **Rule 1.2:** The reference of a pronoun to its antecedent must be clear and unambiguous to avoid confusion.

The Purpose of Pronouns: Avoiding Repetition and Ensuring Clarity

The use of pronouns is not merely a stylistic choice but a grammatical necessity for efficient and clear communication.

1. **To Avoid Redundancy:** The most common function of a pronoun is to prevent the monotonous and stylistically awkward repetition of a noun.

2. **Multiple Examples:**

(Without Pronoun):

Radhika is an excellent student. Radhika submits Radhika's assignments on time.

(With Pronoun):

Radhika is an excellent student. She submits her assignments on time.

3. **For Contextual Necessity:** In certain grammatical contexts, using a noun is either impossible or would fundamentally alter the meaning of the sentence.

Examples:

(The Speaker): A person speaking about themselves cannot use their own name as the subject; they must use the first-person pronoun **I**.

- **Incorrect/Altered Meaning:** Prashant is a teacher. **I am a teacher.** (This correctly identifies the speaker as the subject.)

(The Listener): When addressing someone directly, the second-person pronoun **you** is required. Using the person's name changes the reference to a third party.

- **Incorrect/Altered Meaning:** A boy says to a girl named Radhika, I love Radhika. (This implies he loves a *different* Radhika, not the one he is speaking to.) **I love you.** (This correctly addresses the person being spoken to.)

Personal Pronouns are a subclass of pronouns that refer to specific grammatical persons: the speaker(s), the person(s) spoken to, or the person(s) or thing(s) spoken about. They are distinguished by three properties: **person**, **number**, and **case**.

Rules (The Three Persons):

Rule 2.1 (First Person- I, We): Refers to the speaker or a group including the speaker.

- I believe **we** have reached a consensus.

Rule 2.2 (Second Person - You): Refers to the person or people being addressed (the listener).

- **You** should review the document before **you** all sign it.

Rule 2.3 (Third Person – He, She, It, They): Refers to the person, animal, place, or thing being spoken about.

- **He** spoke to **her** about the project, and **they** agreed **it** was viable.

Case is the grammatical function of a noun or pronoun within a sentence, indicated by its form. The form of a personal pronoun changes to reflect its role as a subject, an object, or a possessor.

1st Person

Singular: I / me / my / mine / myself

Plural: we / us / our / ours / ourselves

2nd Person

Singular & Plural: you / you / your / yours / yourself, yourselves

3rd Person

Singular (Masculine): he / him / his / his / himself

Singular (Feminine): she / her / her / hers / herself

Singular (Neuter): it / it / its / (none) / itself

Plural: they / them / their / theirs / themselves

The Subjective (Nominative) Case

The **Subjective Case** is the form a pronoun takes when it functions as the subject of a verb or as a subject complement.

Rule 2.4: A pronoun must be in the **subjective case** when it is the subject of a clause or sentence.

Examples:

1. **He** designed the new system.
2. (**Subject Complement:**) The person responsible for the success was **she**.
(Renames the subject person after the linking verb was. See Common Errors below.)

Examples

1. It was me who held you.(informal)
2. It was I who held you. (formal)
3. I was the one who held you. (simplified)

The Objective (Accusative) Case

The **Objective Case** is the form a pronoun takes when it functions as a direct object, an indirect object, or the object of a preposition. It is the "receiver" of the action or the target of a preposition.

Rule 2.5: A pronoun must be in the **objective case** when it is the object of a **verb** or **preposition**.

Examples:

1. The committee selected **her**.
2. The manager gave **us** a new task.
3. This is a matter between you and **me**.

Error: The most frequent error is using the subjective case after a preposition, especially in a compound object (e.g., "**between** you and **I**"). This is grammatically incorrect.

4. The gift is for **him**.
5. The gift is for **he**.(X)

The **Possessive Case** indicates ownership, possession, or a close relationship. It has two distinct forms with different grammatical functions: Possessive Adjectives / Determiner and Possessive Pronouns.

Possessive Adjectives (Determiners):

my, your, his, her, its, our, their

Possessive Pronouns

Mine, yours, his, hers, ours, thiers

Rule 2.6: Possessive adjectives function as determiners. They **must** be followed by a **noun**, which they modify. They cannot stand alone.

Rule 2.7: Possessive pronouns are true pronouns that stand alone. They replace a possessive adjective + noun combination. They **cannot** be followed by a noun.

Examples:

1. I have misplaced **my** keys. (**my** modifies keys)
2. The cat is grooming **its** fur. (**its** modifies fur)
3. The keys on the table are **mine**. (**mine** = my keys)
4. The laptop is **his**; the tablet is **hers**.

Common Errors & Nuances:

Apostrophe Use: Possessive pronouns **never** take an apostrophe. This is a very common mistake.

Incorrect: your's, her's, our's, their's, it's (it's means "it is" or "it has")

2. **(Confusion of Roles):** Using a possessive adjective where a possessive pronoun is needed.
1. The fault is not **your**.(X) The fault is not **yours**.

Nuance (his and its): The word **his** is used for both the adjective and the pronoun. Context determines its function. The word **its** is **only** a possessive adjective; there is no corresponding possessive pronoun.

Adjective vs. Pronoun:

Examples

1. This is **my report**.
2. This report is **mine**. → Possessive Pronoun

Step 3: Rules of Pronoun Case Application

This step focuses on applying the **case rules (Subjective vs. Objective)** in common grammatical structures where errors are frequent.

Basic Application: Subjects Before Verbs, Objects After Verbs/Prepositions

This is the foundational rule upon which all others are built.

1. The manager gave the project to **him**.
The manager gave the project to **he**.(X)
2. **We** decided to postpone the meeting.
Us decided to postpone the meeting.(X)

Pronouns with Conjunctions

This is a very common area for mistakes. The key is to isolate the pronoun to determine its correct case.

Rule 3.3: When a pronoun is part of a compound subject or object connected by a conjunction, its case remains the same as if it were used alone.

To check the correct case, mentally remove the other part of the compound element. The correct pronoun form will sound right by itself.

Examples

1. Rohan and **I** will attend the seminar.
Rohan and **me** will attend the seminar.(X)
2. The invitation was sent to Akash and **me**.
The invitation was sent to Akash and **I**.(X)

Pronouns after Verbs of "Being" (Linking Verbs)

Linking verbs (e.g., is, am, are, was, were, will be, has been) do not show action; they link the subject to a word that renames or describes it (a subject complement).

Rule 3.4: In formal, academic English, a pronoun that follows a linking verb and renames the subject (a subject complement) must be in the **Subjective Case**.

Examples:

1. The person who called was **he**.
The person who called was **him**.(X)
2. It is **I** who must take responsibility.
It is **me** who must take responsibility.(X)

Pronouns with Gerunds (-ing forms acting as nouns)

1. **Rule 3.5:** A pronoun immediately preceding a gerund should be in the **Possessive Case** (specifically, a possessive adjective). The possessive pronoun indicates "ownership" of the action described by the gerund.

Examples:

1. The teacher did not object to **my** using the calculator.
...did not object to **me** using... (X)
2. Do you mind **his** joining the club?
Do you mind him joining the club?(X)
3. **Their** complaining about the situation did not help.

Pronouns after Let

Rule 3.6: The verb **let** is always followed by an **object**. Therefore, any pronoun that follows **let** must be in the **Objective Case**.

Examples:

1. Let **us** begin the discussion. (Often contracted to "Let's")
Let **we** begin the discussion.(X)
2. The manager let **him** go early.
The manager let **he** go early.(X)
3. Let Ram and **me** finish the task.
Let **Ram and I** finish the task.(X)

Step 4: Pronouns in Comparison (using than and as)

Comparisons are a common source of pronoun case errors because the structure can be elliptical, meaning some words are omitted but understood. The case of the pronoun after **than** or **as** depends on what is being compared.

The Principle of Parallel Comparison: Subject-to-Subject & Object-to-Object

In a grammatical comparison, the elements being compared must be logically and structurally parallel. This means a subject should be compared to another subject, and an object should be compared to another object.

Rule 4.1 If the pronoun is being compared to the **subject** of the sentence, the pronoun must be in the **Subjective Case**.

Rule 4.2: If the pronoun is being compared to the **object** of the sentence, the pronoun must be in the **Objective Case**.

The Completion Method: To determine the correct case, mentally complete the sentence by adding the omitted verb or verb phrase after the pronoun.

Examples (Subject Comparison):

1. He is more confident than **I**.
He is more confident than **I am**.
The comparison is between "He" (subject) and "I" (subject). The subjective case is required.
He is more confident than me.(X)
2. She knows the material better than **we**.
She knows the material better than **us**.(X)

Examples (Object Comparison):

3. The manager trusts you more than **him**.
The manager trusts you more than **he**. (This would change the meaning to "more than he trusts you.")(X)

Resolving Ambiguity with Auxiliary Verbs

In sentences with both a subject and an object, using a pronoun after than can create ambiguity. Adding an auxiliary verb (like do, does, have, is) clarifies the meaning.

Rule 4.3: When a comparison could be ambiguous, an auxiliary verb should be used after the pronoun to clarify whether a subject-to-subject or object-to-object comparison is intended.

Examples (Illustrating Ambiguity):

- I know Kavita better than Radhika.
1. I know Kavita better than I know **Radhika**.
(Comparing Kavita and Radhika).
 2. I know Kavita better than **Radhika does**.
(Comparing my knowledge with Radhika's knowledge).

Resolving Ambiguity:

2. I speak English more fluently than **she does**.
Error: I she have.(tense will be same)

Using **that of** and **those of**

A common error is to compare dissimilar things. To maintain a logical comparison, especially when comparing a feature of one thing to the same feature of another, we use **that of** (for singular features) and **those of** (for plural features).

- **Rule 4.4:** To compare a noun in one phrase to a corresponding noun in another, use **that of** for a singular noun and **those of** for a plural noun to avoid an illogical comparison.

Examples

1. The climate of Jaipur is warmer than **that of** Delhi.
The climate of Jaipur is warmer than Delhi.(X)
2. The stories in the Mahabharata are more interesting than **those of** the Ramayana.
The stories in the Mahabharata are more interesting than the Ramayana.(X)
3. Passenger vehicles with four airbags are safer than **those** with six airbags.
Passenger vehicles with four airbags are safer than six airbags.(X)

Nuances and Exceptions:

4. **Parallel Prepositions:** Note that the preposition used after **that** or **those** should ideally mirror the preposition in the first part of the comparison for maximum clarity (e.g., cities **in** India ... those **in** Pakistan).

Step 5: The Sequence of Personal Pronouns

In sentences with a positive or neutral connotation, standard grammatical etiquette dictates that the speaker refers to the listener (you, second person) first, then the person(s) being spoken about (he, she, they, a name; third person), and finally to themselves (I, first person).

Rule 5.1 (The Order of Politeness): For positive or neutral actions, the conventional sequence for personal pronouns is **(2-3-1)**.

Examples:

1. **You, he, and I** will complete the project successfully.
2. **You and I** need to discuss the plan.
3. **Priya and I** will go to the market.
4. **You and she** should work together on this.

The Rule of Modesty/Responsibility (1-2-3 Order) for Negative Contexts

When a sentence describes a negative action, admits fault, or accepts responsibility for a mistake, the convention is reversed. The speaker demonstrates politeness and responsibility by placing themselves first.

Rule 5.2 (The Order of Responsibility): For negative actions (e.g., admitting a mistake, confessing, describing a fault), the conventional sequence for personal pronouns is **(1-2-3):**

Examples:

1. **I, you, and he** are responsible for this.
2. **I and you** will be blamed for the loss.
3. **I and she** made a terrible error.

Plural Pronouns rules

1. We, you, and they missed the deadline.
2. We and you made a huge mess.
3. We and they were wrong to assume that.
4. You, they, and we will manage the event.
5. They and we celebrated the win.
6. You and we should collaborate.

Determining Possessive Case:

If the series includes the **First Person** (I or we), the corresponding possessive pronoun will be first person plural (**our**).

1. You, he, and I must do **our** duty.

If the series includes the **Second Person** (you) but not the first, the possessive will be second person (**your**).

2. You and she should check **your** work.

If the series includes only the **Third Person**, the possessive will be third person plural (**their**).

3. *He and she finished their tasks.*

Step 6: Reflexive and Emphatic Pronouns

Pronouns ending in -self (singular) or -selves (plural) serve two distinct grammatical functions: reflexive and emphatic. Although they have the same form, their purpose and position in a sentence differ significantly.

Definitions and Form (-self, -selves)

A **Reflexive Pronoun** is used as an object when the object of a verb is the same as its subject. It "reflects" the action back onto the doer.

An **Emphatic Pronoun** (or Emphasizing Pronoun) is used to add emphasis to a noun or another pronoun. It is not grammatically essential to the sentence but serves to intensify the identity of the noun it modifies.

Sub.	Ref.	Sub.	Reflx.
my	myself	your	yourself
he	himself	she	herself
it	itself	our	ourselves
your	yourselves	they	themselves

Errors & Nuances:

Error (theirselves, hisself): The forms **theirselves** and **hisself** are non-standard and incorrect. The correct forms are **themselves** and **himself**.

Rule 6.1: A reflexive pronoun is essential to the meaning of the sentence. If you remove it, the sentence becomes grammatically incorrect or its meaning changes drastically. It functions as an object.

Position: Typically follows the verb.

Examples:

1. She introduced **herself** to the new team.
2. The students must prepare **themselves** for the exam.

Emphatic Pronouns (For Emphasis)

Rule 6.2: An emphatic pronoun is not essential to the core grammatical structure. It can be removed without making the sentence incorrect; only the emphasis is lost.

Position: Typically follows the noun/pronoun it emphasizes or appears at the end of the clause.

Examples:

3. I **myself** witnessed the event.
4. The director **himself** admitted the error.

Verbs That Commonly Take a Reflexive Pronoun

Rule 6.3: Verbs such as **enjoy, avail, acquit, absent, pride, reconcile, resign** (in the sense of surrendering), **adapt**, and **exert** typically require a reflexive pronoun when they do not have an explicit external object.

Examples:

1. She **enjoyed herself** at the party.
2. He **availed himself of** the free training course.
3. The defendant **acquitted himself** honorably in court.
4. She **absented herself** from work without notice.
5. She **prided herself** on his cooking skills.
6. We **reconciled ourselves** to the loss of the match.
7. The warrior **resigned himself** to his fate. (surrender sense)
8. They **adapted themselves** to the new climate quickly.
9. She **exerted herself** to finish the project on time.

Errors: Use as a Subject, Misuse with certain verbs

Rule 6.4: Reflexive/Emphatic pronouns can never be used as the subject of a sentence or as a simple substitute for a personal pronoun (subjective or objective).

1. **Myself** will handle the arrangements.(X)

I will handle the arrangements.

Rule 6.5: Some verbs are naturally reflexive in meaning and do not require a reflexive pronoun. These include **keep, stop, turn, qualify, bathe, move, rest, and hide.**

Examples:

1. You should **keep yourself** away from bad company.(X)
2. He **stopped himself** at the traffic light.(X)
3. She **turned** around **herself** quickly.(X)
4. He **qualified himself** for the scholarship.(X)
5. They **bathed themselves** in the river.(X)
6. Please **move yourself** aside.(X)
7. You should **rest yourself** after dinner.(X)
8. He **hid himself** behind the curtain.(X)

Relative Pronouns and Antecedents

A **Relative Pronoun** is a word that introduces a dependent (or subordinate) clause, called a relative clause. This clause modifies a noun or pronoun in the main clause. The primary functions of a relative pronoun are:

To **relate** the dependent clause to a noun in the main clause.

To act as a **subject, object, or possessor** within its own dependent clause.

Antecedent:

The noun or pronoun to which the relative pronoun refers is called its **antecedent**. A relative pronoun must agree with its antecedent.

The expert **who** analyzed the data is highly respected.

Here **the expert** is the antecedent of relative pronoun **whob**

Who

Rule 7.1: Who is the subjective case relative pronoun. It is used to refer to people (and sometimes animals that are personified or named) when the relative pronoun is the **subject** of the verb in the relative clause.

Examples: The "He/She" Test

1. The scientist **who** discovered the element was celebrated.
2. I spoke to the manager **who** is in charge of recruitment.

Whom

Rule 7.2: Whom is the objective case relative pronoun. It is used to refer to people when the relative pronoun is the **object** of a verb or a preposition in the relative clause.

Examples: The "Him/Her" Test

1. The candidate **whom** the committee selected has accepted the offer.
2. The person to **whom** I spoke was very helpful.

Whose

Rule 7.3: Whose is the possessive case relative pronoun. It is used to show possession or a relationship for both people and things. It functions as a determiner before a noun.

Examples:

1. I have a friend **whose** mother is a famous author.
2. This is the car **whose** engine was recently repaired.
3. He is an artist **whose** work is internationally acclaimed.

Which

Rule 8.1 (Non-humans): Which is the relative pronoun used to refer to animals and inanimate objects (things). It can function as both a subject and an object.

Examples (Referring to things):

1. This is the report **which** contains the final analysis. (**Subject**)
2. The car **which** I bought last year is very reliable. (**Object**)

Note: Which is used to refer to people when making a **selection** or **choice** from a group.

1. **Which** of the applicants was hired for the position?
2. **Which** of the speakers is scheduled to address the committee first?
3. **Which** of the interns will present the quarterly report?

That

That is a versatile relative pronoun used for both people and things, but primarily in restrictive clauses (clauses that are essential to identify the noun). While often interchangeable with **who** or **which**, there are specific situations where that is strongly preferred or required.

Rule 8.3: That is the preferred relative pronoun after the following:

Superlative Adjectives

Indefinite Pronouns: all, any, anything, nothing, none, some.

Specific Words: the only, the same, the few, the little.

A Person + Animal/Thing: When the antecedent is a combination of a person and a non-person.

Examples:

1. This is the best film **that** I have ever seen.
2. He gave her all the money **that** he had.
3. The woman and her dog **that** passed by live next door.

Note: The antecedent is The woman and her dog. Since this includes both a person and an animal, **that** is used instead of **who** or **which**.

What

Rule 8.4: The relative pronoun what is used when the antecedent is not explicitly stated. It means "the thing(s) that" or "that which." It cannot follow a noun or pronoun antecedent.

Examples:

1. You need to understand **what** I mean.
2. **What** he said was very insightful.
3. This is **what** I need.

Note: There is no antecedent. Compare with "This is the **book that** I need." (Here, **book** is the antecedent, so that is used).

it's vs. its

Rule 8.5 (it's): It's is a **contraction** of "it is" or "it has." The apostrophe signals that a letter has been omitted.

Rule 8.6 (its): Its is the **possessive adjective** form of the pronoun it. It shows ownership and, like all possessive adjectives, is followed by a noun. It **never** has an apostrophe.

Examples:

1. **It's** a beautiful day.
2. The company announced **its** quarterly earnings.
3. The dog lost **its** collar.

Demonstrative Pronouns are used to point to and identify specific nouns or noun phrases. They are distinguished by number (singular/plural) and proximity (near/far).

Rule 9.1 (Proximity and Number):

1. **This** (Singular, Near): Refers to a single item close to the speaker.
2. **That** (Singular, Far): Refers to a single item at a distance from the speaker.
3. **These** (Plural, Near): Refers to multiple items close to the speaker.
4. **Those** (Plural, Far): Refers to multiple items at a distance from the speaker.

Pronoun vs. Adjective (Determiner)

A demonstrative word is a **pronoun** when it stands alone (or is followed by a verb), replacing a noun. It is an **adjective** (determiner) when it modifies a noun that follows it.

1. This is **my** final answer key for Paper II.
2. **This** final answer key is mine.
3. Is **this** your corrected notebook from yesterday's class?
4. Is **this** corrected notebook yours?
5. The committee accepted **their** revised proposal after deliberation.
6. The revised proposal **they** submitted is **theirs**.

Distributive Pronouns refer to persons or things one at a time. For this reason, they are always singular and require a singular verb.

Rule 9.2 (Each): Refers to every single person or thing in a group of two or more.

Rule 9.3 (Either): Refers to one of two persons or things. It has a positive connotation.

Rule 9.4 (Neither): Refers to none of two persons or things. It is the negative counterpart of either.

Rule 9.5 (Verb Agreement): Distributive pronouns always take a **singular verb** and a **singular possessive pronoun**.

Examples:

1. **Each** of the students **has** submitted **his or her** assignment.
2. **Either** of the two paths **leads** to the village.
3. **Neither** of his two sons **is** hardworking.

Reciprocal Pronouns are used to indicate that two or more people are carrying out an action of a similar type, with both receiving the benefits or consequences of that action simultaneously. It expresses a mutual relationship.

Rule 9.6 (Each other): Traditionally used when referring to **two** people or things.

Rule 9.7 (One another): Traditionally used when referring to **more than two** people or things.

1. The two cats were fighting with **each other**.
2. All the students in the class help **one another**.

Nuances and Exceptions:

In modern usage, the distinction between each other and one another is often blurred, with each other frequently used for groups of more than two. However, for formal and academic purposes, maintaining the traditional distinction is advisable.

The Indefinite Pronoun One (one's, oneself)

The indefinite pronoun **one** refers to people in general, an unspecified person, or the speaker in a formal, impersonal context.

Rule 9.8 (Pronoun Consistency): When **one** is used as the subject of a sentence, all subsequent related pronouns must also be forms of one (i.e., one's for possessive, oneself for reflexive). One is singular so he it takes singular verb.

Examples:

1. **One** should do **one's** duty faithfully.
One should do his duty faithfully. (X)
2. **One** must have confidence in **oneself**.
One must have confidence in himself. (X)
3. **One** should keep **one's** promises.

Nuances and Exceptions:

One of the... Construction: Do not confuse the indefinite pronoun one with the phrase "one of the...". In the latter case, the pronoun refers to the noun that follows.

1. One of the students left **his** book behind.
(Here, the possessive refers to students, not to one.)

Indefinite pronouns refer to a person or thing that is not specific. They do not refer to a specific person, place, or thing.

1. Everyone

Definition: Refers to all the people in a group, considered individually.

Number: Always **singular**.

Verb Agreement: Takes a singular verb.

Possessive Pronoun Agreement: Requires a singular possessive pronoun (his/her/its or

their in informal/gender-neutral contexts, but formally singular).

Examples:

1. **Everyone** in the room **is** listening intently.
2. **Everyone** needs to submit **their** report by Friday. (Common in informal/modern usage for gender neutrality)
3. **Everyone** should do **his or her** best. (Formal and traditionally correct)

2. Everything

Definition: Refers to all things or all of a particular thing.

Number: Always **singular**.

Verb Agreement: Takes a singular verb.

Examples:

1. **Everything** is ready for the presentation.
2. **Everything** he said **was** true.
3. **Everything** in the box **was** broken.

3. Others

Definition: Refers to other people or things; the remaining ones.

Number: Always **plural**.

Verb Agreement: Takes a plural verb.

Examples:

1. Some students finished early, but **others** still **have** work to do.
2. He asked for more cookies, but there **were** no **others** left.
3. Don't worry about **others**; focus on your own task.

4. Several

Definition: Refers to an indefinite number, more than two but not many.

Number: Always **plural**.

Verb Agreement: Takes a plural verb.

Examples:

1. **Several** of the attendees **were** late.
2. **Several** ideas **were** proposed during the meeting.
3. I saw **several** of my friends at the concert.

5. All

Definition: Refers to the entire quantity or extent of a group or thing.

Number: Can be **singular** or **plural** depending on what it refers to.

Singular: When it refers to a non-countable noun or a single concept/entity.

Plural: When it refers to a countable noun or a group of individuals.

Verb Agreement:

Takes a singular verb if referring to a singular (uncountable) noun or concept.

Takes a plural verb if referring to a plural (countable) noun.

Examples:

1. **All** of the water **has** evaporated. (Referring to an uncountable noun - singular)
2. **All** of the students **have** arrived. (Referring to countable nouns - plural)
3. **All** **is** well that ends well. (Referring to a concept - singular)
4. They ate **all** the cakes. (Referring to countable nouns - plural)

6. Anything

Definition: Refers to a non-specific thing; typically used in questions or negative statements.

Number: Always **singular**.

Verb Agreement: Takes a singular verb.

Examples:

1. Do you need **anything** from the store?
2. I didn't say **anything** about it.
3. **Anything** **is** possible if you believe.

7. Nothing

Definition: Refers to no thing; not anything.

Number: Always **singular**.

Verb Agreement: Takes a singular verb.

Examples:

1. **Nothing** **was** left in the fridge.
2. **Nothing** **is** more important than safety.
3. He said **nothing** about the incident.