

## NOTES ON PRONOUNS

Pronoun: a word which is used to take the place of a noun.

- A pronoun can be used to do any of the “jobs” which a noun can do in a sentence

Antecedent: word(s) which the pronoun replaces.

**Kinds of Pronouns:**

**Personal:** Most commonly used pronouns.

- I, me, my, mine
- you, your, yours
- he, him, his, she, her, hers, it, its
- we, us, our, ours
- you, your, yours
- they, them, their, theirs

**Interrogative:** Used to ask questions

- who
- whose
- whom
- which
- what

**Demonstrative:** Used to point things out or call attention.

- this
- that
- these
- those

**Indefinite:** Do not have antecedents

- another, anybody, anyone, anything
- each, either, everybody, everyone, everything
- little, much, neither, nobody, no one
- both, few, many, others, several
- all, any, more, most, none, some



**Reflexive/Intensive:** Ends in –self or -selves

- himself
- myself
- yourself

**Reciprocal:**

- each other
- one another

[http://ds151.k12.sd.us/pronoun\\_notes.htm](http://ds151.k12.sd.us/pronoun_notes.htm)

Personal Pronouns & Possessive Adjectives			
SUBJECT PRONOUNS	OBJECT PRONOUNS (See <a href="#">notes</a> below)	POSSESSIVE ADJECTIVES + NOUN	POSSESSIVE PRONOUNS
I	ME	MY ears	MINE
HE	HIM	HIS ears	HIS
SHE	HER	HER ears	HERS
IT	IT	ITS ears	ITS
WE	US	OUR ears	OURS
YOU	YOU	YOUR ears	YOURS
THEY	THEM	THEIR ears	THEIRS

IMPORTANT NOTES		
The object pronoun has two 'jobs,' either as an indirect object, or direct object. Please see the following example.		
VERB	INDIRECT OBJECT	DIRECT OBJECT
Give	the dog HIM	a bone IT
VERB	DIRECT OBJECT	INDIRECT OBJECT
GIVE	a bone IT	to the dog TO HIM
		IMPORTANT  "TO" is necessary when the indirect object follows the direct object. Therefore an easy way to identify the indirect object is to see which object needs "TO"

INSTRUCTIONS: Use the words from Table I to complete the following exercise. Please read the following information first.

- Geraldine is telling the story.
- Geraldine thinks Mary has taken her coat.

#### ANSWER KEY

Two days ago, ..... saw Mary wearing ..... coat. .... knew ..... was ....., because ..... had a coffee stain on the left sleeve. .... explained to ..... that ..... was ....., but ..... said ..... was ....., refused to give ..... back and stormed off. .... followed..... as ..... took the liberty of going shopping in ..... coat. First of all, ..... purchased cigarettes and put ..... in the pocket of ..... coat. Ugh! How dare .....! ..... hate the smell of cigarettes!

Next, ..... popped into a "Greasy Spoon" cafe. (Due to the greasy atmosphere and rancid cooking smells, all working men's cafes have that nickname, because all..... food is fried in oil or lard.) ..... peered in through the window and noticed ..... was sitting down on one of the greasy chairs. Oh, no! Not only is..... coat going to stink of fried food, but ..... is also going to have greasy stains on .....!

As ..... watched, ..... started to undo ..... coat and then took ..... off. .... waited until ..... had removed ..... and hung ..... up with some grubby workmen's coats on coat hooks in the corner. .... decided ..... would be a good idea to wait until ..... wasn't looking, then ..... could rush in and grab the coat. .... glanced away for a few minutes to blow ..... nose and when ..... looked back, the coat had gone. Racing into the café, ..... looked frantically about ..... and noticed an old tramp limping out of another door with ..... coat gracing ..... rounded shoulders. .... desperately shouted, "Stop! Thief!" Mary looked up in surprise. "Quick Mary, " ..... yelled, "That tramp has walked off with ..... coat!"

"No, ..... hasn't," she replied. "..... looked so cold, poor thing, ..... told ..... could have ....."

"What! ..... gave ..... coat away!"

"Of course not! Although ..... coats are similar, that was a green coat; ..... one is brown, so that one was definitely not .....! Can't ..... get special glasses or tablets for ..... colour-blindness?"

#### GAPPED EXERCISE FOR ELEMENTARY/PRE-INTERMEDIATE PRACTICE

INSTRUCTIONS: Use the above rules to complete the following exercise

#### SUBJECT PRONOUNS

1. Egbert is not English; ..... is Australian
2. Dominic and Kaye are in love; ..... are going to get married.
3. This is Lyn's first job and ..... is very nervous.
4. Have ..... seen my new car? No, ..... haven't.
5. .... are going on holiday at the end of the month.
6. Will you look after our cat please? ..... will need food and water whilst ..... are away.

#### OBJECT PRONOUNS

1. Help ..... to prepare for my exam please.
2. Your dog keeps jumping up at me; please tell ..... to stop.
3. Give ..... some advice please; we are so worried.
4. Carl and Ellie rode their bicycles to Juliette's house; she was out, so they didn't see .....
5. The police are patrolling the town centre. Have you seen .....?
6. Dave is very thirsty. Would you give ..... something to drink please?
7. Albert says he knows ....., because he met ..... at your party last week.

#### POSSESSIVE ADJECTIVES

1. Alfred and Henry are in ..... car.
2. Gertrude is cleaning ..... teeth.
3. Tom is drinking ..... drink.
4. Is this ..... hamburger?
5. I am working on ..... homework.
6. Please give the dog ..... bone now.

#### POSSESSIVE PRONOUNS

1. That is Clara's shoe; that's .....
2. This is Jennifer and Tom's home; it's .....
3. That is Peter's car over there; it's .....
4. "Whose money is this? Is it .....?" "No, it's not ....., because I didn't have any."

<http://www.musicalenglishlessons.com/grammar-pronouns.htm>

## PRONOUNS

Pronouns are words that substitute for nouns.

Every pronoun must have a clear antecedent (the word for which the pronoun stands).

## KINDS OF PRONOUNS

### A. Personal Pronouns:

SINGULAR				PLURAL		
	subjective	objective	possessive	subjective	objective	possessive
1 <sup>st</sup> person	<i>I</i>	<i>me</i>	<i>my, mine</i>	<i>we</i>	<i>us</i>	<i>our, ours</i>
2 <sup>nd</sup> person	<i>you</i>	<i>you</i>	<i>your, yours</i>	<i>you</i>	<i>you</i>	<i>your, yours</i>
3 <sup>rd</sup> person	<i>he</i> <i>she</i> <i>it</i>	<i>him</i> <i>her</i> <i>it</i>	<i>his</i> <i>her, hers</i> <i>its</i>	<i>they</i>	<i>them</i>	<i>their, theirs</i>

**Personal pronouns have the following characteristics:**

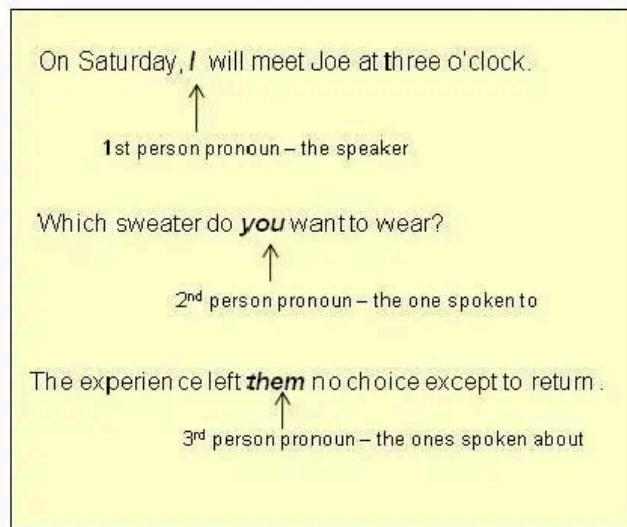
#### 1. three persons (points of view)

1st person - the one(s) speaking (*I me my mine we us our ours*)

2nd person - the one(s) spoken to (*you your yours*)

3rd person - the one(s) spoken about (*he him his she her hers it its they their theirs*)

Examples



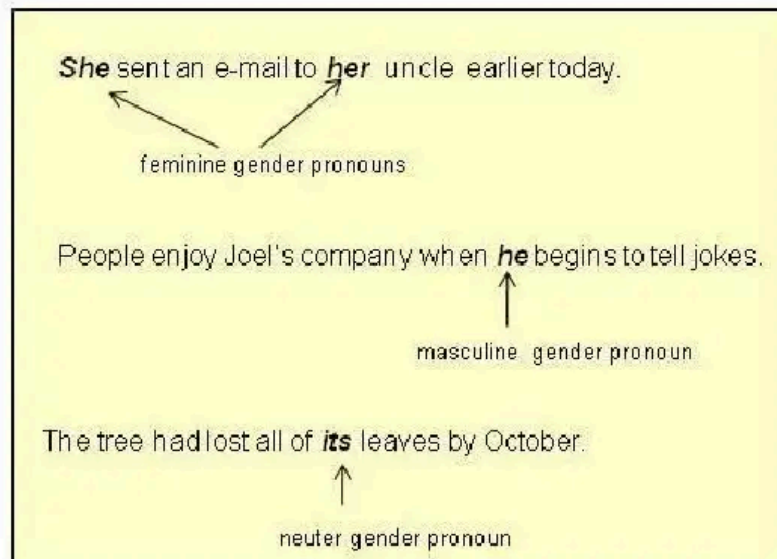
## 2. three genders

feminine (*she her hers*)

masculine (*he him his*)

neuter (*it its they them their theirs*)

### Examples

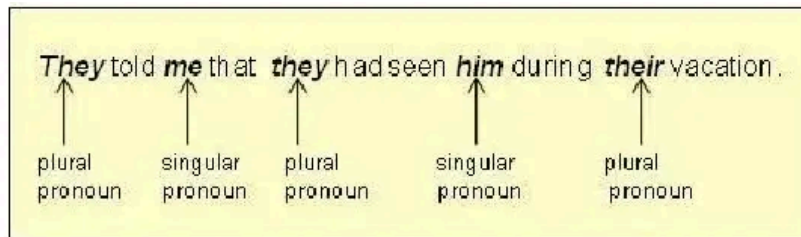


## 3. two numbers



singular (*I me my mine you your yours he him his she her hers it its*)  
 plural (*we us our ours you your yours they them their theirs*)

#### Examples



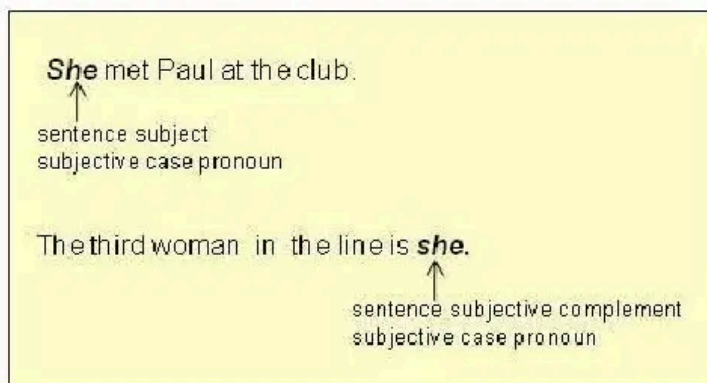
#### 4. three cases

subjective (*I you he she it we they*)

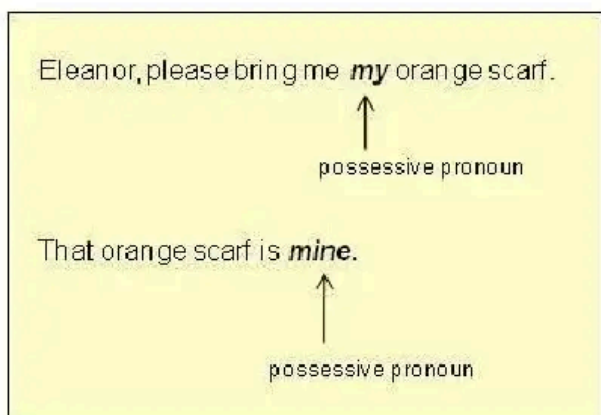
possessive (*my mine your yours his her hers our ours their theirs*)

objective (*me you him her it us them*)

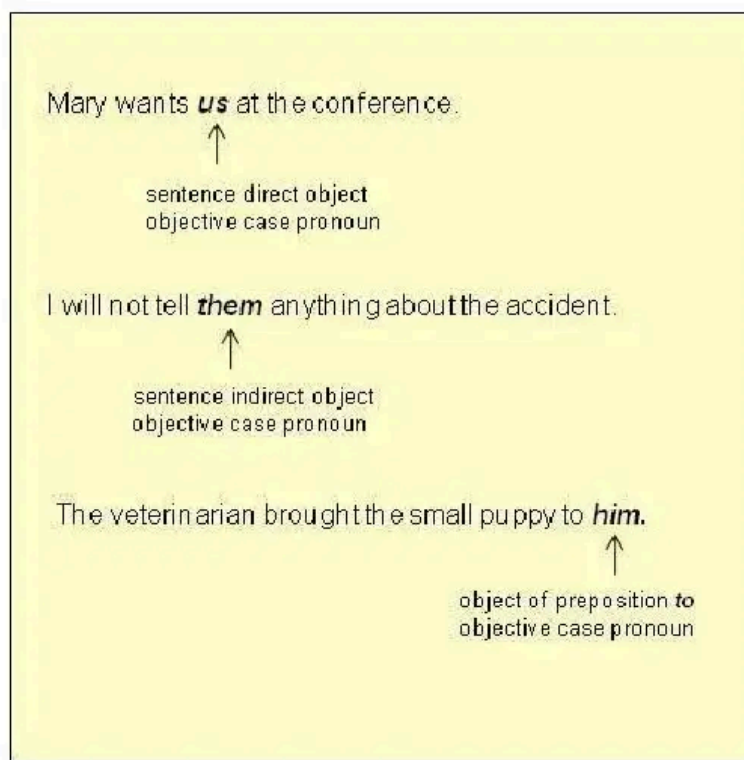
#### Examples - subjective case



#### Examples - possessive case



### Examples - objective case



NOTE: Because of pronoun case, the pronoun's form changes with its function in the

sentence. Follow this link to [pronoun case](#) for more information.

## B. Demonstrative Pronouns:

<i>this</i>	<i>that</i>	<i>these</i>	<i>those</i>
↑	↑	↑	↑
singular	singular	plural	plural
(near)	(far)	(near)	(far)

Demonstrative pronouns can also be used as [determiners](#).

### Example:

Hand me *that* hammer. (*that* describes the noun *hammer*)

Demonstrative pronouns can also be used as [qualifiers](#):

### Example:

She wanted *that* much money? (*that* describes the adjective *much*)

## C. Reflexive / Intensive Pronouns : the "self" pronouns

These pronouns can be used only to reflect or intensify a word already there in the sentence.

Reflexive / intensive pronouns CANNOT REPLACE [personal pronouns](#).

### Examples:

I saw *myself* in the mirror. (**Myself** is a reflexive pronoun, reflecting the pronoun *I*.)

I'll do it *myself*. (**Myself** is an intensive pronoun, intensifying the pronoun *I*.)

**Note:** The following words are substandard and **should not be used**:

*themselves*    *themselves*    *hissself*    *oursself*

## D. Indefinite Pronouns:

### Singular:

<i>one</i>	<i>someone</i>	<i>anyone</i>	<i>no one</i>	<i>everyone</i>
<i>each</i>	<i>somebody</i>	<i>anybody</i>	<i>nobody</i>	<i>everybody</i>
<i>(n)either</i>	<i>something</i>	<i>anything</i>	<i>nothing</i>	<i>everything</i>

Examples:

*Somebody* is coming to dinner.

*Neither* of us believes a word Harry says.

**Plural:**

<i>both</i>	<i>few</i>	<i>several</i>
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Examples:

*Both* are expected at the airport at the same time.

*Several* have suggested canceling the meeting.

**Singular with non-countables / Plural with countables:**

<i>some</i>	<i>any</i>	<i>none</i>	<i>all</i>	<i>most</i>
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Examples:

*Some* of the dirt has become a permanent part of the rug.

*Some* of the trees have been weakened by the storm.

Indefinite pronouns use apostrophes to indicate possessive case.

Examples:

The accident is ***nobody's*** fault.

How will the roadwork affect *one's* daily commute?

Some indefinite pronouns may also be used as determiners.

*one, each, either, neither, some, any, one, all, both, few, several, many, most*

Note the differences:

*Each* person has a chance.

(*Each* is a determiner describing person.)

*Each* has a chance.

(*Each* is an indefinite pronoun replacing a noun.)

*Both* lawyers pled their cases well.

(*Both* is a determiner describing lawyers.)

*Both* were in the room.

(**Both** is an indefinite pronoun replacing a noun.)

### **E. Interrogative Pronouns:**

<i>who</i>	<i>whose</i>	<i>whom</i>	<i>which</i>	<i>what</i>
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Interrogative pronouns produce information questions that require more than a “yes” or “no” answer.

Examples:

*What* do you want?

*Who* is there?

### **F. Relative Pronouns:**

<i>who</i>	<i>whose</i>	<i>that</i>	<i>which</i>
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Relative pronouns introduce relative (adjectival) clauses.



Note: Use *who*, *whom*, and *whose* to refer to people.  
Use *that* and *which* to refer to things.

#### ANSWER KEY :

##### THE ANSWER KEY FOR UPPER-INTERMEDIATE/ADVANCED PRACTICE

Two days ago, I saw Mary wearing my coat. I knew it was mine, because it had a coffee stain on the left sleeve. I explained to her that it was mine, but she said it was hers, refused to give it back and stormed off. I followed her as she took the liberty of going shopping in my coat. First of all, she purchased cigarettes and put them in the pocket of my coat. Ugh! How dare she! I hate the smell of cigarettes!

Next, she popped into a "Greasy Spoon" cafe. (Due to the greasy atmosphere and rancid cooking smells, all working men's cafes have that nickname, because all their food is fried in oil or lard.) I peered in through the window and noticed she was sitting down on one of the greasy chairs. Oh, no! Not only is my coat going to stink of fried food, but it is also going to have greasy stains on it!

As I watched, she started to undo my coat and then took it off. I waited until she had removed it and hung it up with some grubby workmen's coats on coat hooks in the corner. I decided it would be a good idea to wait until she wasn't looking, then I could rush in and grab the coat. I glanced away for a few minutes to blow my nose and when I looked back, the coat had gone. Racing into the cafe, I looked frantically about me and noticed an old tramp limping out of another door with my coat gracing his rounded shoulders. I desperately shouted, "Stop! Thief!" Mary looked up in surprise. "Quick Mary," I yelled, "That tramp has walked off with my coat!"

"No, he hasn't," she replied. "He looked so cold, poor thing, I told him he could have it."

"What! You gave my coat away!"

"Of course not! Although our coats are similar, that was a green coat; your one is brown, so that one was definitely not yours! Can't you get special glasses or tablets for your colour-blindness?"

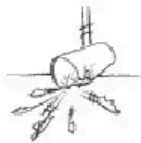
NOTE: [tramp](#) See British-American Vocabulary Differences

ANSWER KEY FOR ELEMENTARY/PRE-INTERMEDIATE PRACTICE			
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Subject Pronouns	Object Pronouns	Possessive Adjectives	Possessive Pronouns
1. he	1. me	1. their	1. hers
2. they	2. it	2. her	2. theirs
3. she	3. us	3. his	3. his
4. you, I	4. her	4. your	4. yours
5. We	5. them	5. my	5. mine
6. It, we	6. him	6. its	
	7. you, you		

<http://www.musicalenglishlessons.com/grammar-pronouns.htm>

## Notes

The following are pronouns.



The glass fell and *it* broke. ("*it*" replaces "glass")



Virginia and Bob sat and *they* talked for hours. ("*they*" replaces "Virginia and Bob")



Jack was here. Did you see *him*? ("*him*" replaces "Jack")



*We* can't use *that*. ("*We*" replaces the people who are speaking and "*that*" replaces the broken table)





Tom caught *it* and ran. ("it" replaces the "ball" which is understood)



*Who* was at the door? ("who" replaces the "person at the door" which is understood)

Here are some more pronouns

I, mine, me, ours, us, you, yours, he, his, him, she, hers, her, them, herself,

himself, itself, myself, that, those, whose, what, which, someone, both, nobody

[http://myword.info/notes.php?id=pronoun\\_1-a](http://myword.info/notes.php?id=pronoun_1-a)

A **pronoun** is a word that is used in place of a noun or another pronoun. Like a noun, a pronoun can refer to a person, place, thing, or idea. The word that a pronoun refers to is called its **antecedent**.



### Personal Pronouns

Pronouns such as we, I, she, them, and it are called personal pronouns. Personal pronouns have a variety of forms to indicate different **persons**, **numbers**, and **cases**.

### Person and Number

There are **first-person**, **second-person**, and **third-person personal pronouns**, each having both singular and plural forms.

**Singular****I** shivered.**You** slept.**She** saw a light.**Plural****We** lit a fire.**You all** fell asleep.**They** ran toward it.**Case**

Each personal pronoun forms has **three cases**: **subject**, **object**, and **possessive**.

Which form to use depends on the pronoun's function in a sentence.

Subject: **She** took a deep breath.

Object: Jerry told **her** about the problem.

Possessive: I like **your** story better than **mine**.

The following chart shows all the forms of the personal pronouns:

Personal Pronouns			
	Subject	Object	Possessive
<b>Singular</b>			
First person	I	me	my, mine
Second person	you	you	your, yours
Third person	he, she, it	him, her, it	his, her, hers, its
<b>Plural</b>			
First person	we	us	our, ours
Second person	you	you	your, yours
Third person	they	them	their, theirs

## Subject Pronouns

A subject pronoun is used as the subject of a sentence or as a predicate pronoun after a linking verb.

Subject Pronouns	
Singular	Plural
I	we
you	you
he, she, it	they

## Pronouns as Subjects

**Use a subject pronoun when the pronoun is a subject or part of a compound subject.**

- The Apollo program was a great success. **It** got us to the moon. (It, referring to The Apollo program, is the subject of the sentence.)

**A pronoun can be part of a compound subject.**

- **You** and **I** both think we should go on to Mars.

**Predicate Pronouns**

A predicate pronoun follows a linking verb and identifies the subject. Use the subject case for predicate pronouns.



Remember, the most common linking verbs are forms of the verb be, including is, am, are, was, were, has been, have been, can be, will be, could be, and should be.

### Object Pronouns

An object pronoun is used as a direct object, an indirect object, or an object of a preposition.

Object Pronouns	
Singular	Plural
me	us
you	you
him, her, it	them

**Direct Object** The pronoun receives the action of a verb and answers the question whom or what.

SCARE WHOM?

Bad storms scare **me**.

DIRECT OBJECT

Do you like **them**? (like what? *them*)

**Indirect Object** The pronoun tells to whom or what or for whom or what an action is

TO WHOM? DIRECT OBJECT

Give **me** an explanation of how hurricanes form.

INDIRECT OBJECT

I told **him** the story of Hurricane Floyd.

performed.

**Object of a Preposition** The pronoun follows a preposition (such as to, from, for,

When he sees big storms, he runs from **them**.

PREPOSITION OBJECT

against, by, or about).

**Always use object pronouns after the preposition between.**

- It's a contest **between him** and **me**. (NOT between he and I.)

## Possessive Pronouns

A possessive pronoun is a personal pronoun used to show ownership or relationship.

Possessive Pronouns	
Singular	Plural
my, mine	our, ours
your, yours	your, yours
her, hers, his, its	their, theirs

The possessive pronouns my, your, her, his, its, our, and their come before nouns.

The dog pricked up **its** little ears. (OWNERSHIP)

It saw the boy and heard **his** loud cry for help. (RELATIONSHIP)

The owner and **his** best friend came to the rescue. (RELATIONSHIP)

The possessive pronouns mine, ours, yours, his, hers, its, and theirs can stand alone in a sentence.



- This cat is **mine**. That cat is **his**.
- Is the striped cat **yours**? No, **mine** is all black.
- What color is **his**? **Hers** hasn't come home yet.

### Possessive Pronouns and Contractions

Some possessive pronouns sound like contractions (its/it's, your/you're, their/they're). Because these pairs sound alike, writers often confuse possessive pronouns and contractions.

Remember, a possessive pronoun never has an apostrophe. A contraction, however, always has an apostrophe. The apostrophe shows where a letter or letters have been left out in a combination of two words.



<http://www.drshadiabanjar.blogspot.com/2009/01/lecture-notes-pronouns.html>

## Exercise on Pronouns

### Personal Pronouns - Subject

Replace the words in brackets by the correct personal pronouns. Note that **Sue** is the person speaking. The (\*) means that you are asked a question.

1. My name is Sue. (Sue)  am English. And this is my family.
2. My mum's name is Angie. (Angie)  is from Germany.
3. Bob is my dad. (My dad)  is a waiter.
4. On the left you can see Simon. (Simon)  is my brother.
5. (Sue and Simon)  are twins.
6. Our dog is a girl, Judy. (Judy)  is two years old.
7. (Sue, Simon, Angie and Bob)  live in Canterbury.
8. (Canterbury)  is not far from London.
9. My grandparents live in London. (My grandparents)  often come and see us.
10. What can (\*)  tell me about your family?

**Exercise A Fill out the correct possessive pronoun!**

1. I have a bike. It's  bike.
2. Mum and I have a boat. It's  boat.
3. The horse has an apple. It's  apple.
4. John and Max have a skateboard. It's  skateboard.
6. You have a dog. It's  dog.
7. Max and you have a dad. It's  dad.

**Exercise B - Fill out the correct possessive pronoun!**

1. I have a dog. That dog is  !
2. She has a cat. That cat is  !
3. We have a car. That car is  !
4. They have a bike. That bike is  !
5. He has a key. That key is  !
6. You have a hat. That hat is  !