

English Pronouns





What is a Pronoun?

A Pronoun is a word used in place of a **noun**. Usually pronouns refer to something that was already mentioned in previous sentence or understood by the listener or reader. They are very useful words because when you use them, you do not need to repeat nouns all the time.

Without pronouns

Alexander is my neighbor. Alexander says that Alexander likes to sleep.

Pronouns List and Quizzes

[English Pronouns List](#) Alphabetical list of English pronouns with definitions and translations.

[Pronouns spelling quiz](#) Check-Practice your spelling of English pronouns. Quiz lets you choose only those pronouns that you have trouble with.

[Personal Pronouns](#) Quiz on Pronoun Usage. Personal pronouns, possessive, reflexive/intensive pronouns, and possessive adjectives.

[The Types of Pronouns](#) Identify the type of a pronoun.

With pronouns

Alexander is my neighbor. *He* says that *he* likes to sleep.

When a pronoun replaces a word (or a group of words), the word being replaced is called an **antecedent**.

I wrote a letter to the president, *who* responded quickly. In that sentence, president is antecedent of the pronoun *who*.

A pronoun must agree with its antecedent in person, number, and gender.

The different kinds of pronouns are:

Demonstrative Personal Indefinite Intensive Interrogative Reciprocal Reflexive Relative

Personal pronouns

In order to use personal pronouns, it is important to know about **case** (subject, object, and possessive), **number** (singular and plural), **person** (first, second, and third), and **gender** (male, female and neutral).

Subject Pronouns: *I, you, she, he, it, we, they* are used as a subject or predicate noun. *She* is a teacher. *It* was *he* who said that.

Object Pronouns: *me, you, him, her, them, us, it* are used as an indirect object, direct object, or object of a preposition. She baked *him* a pie. I can hardly see *it*. They are going with *us*.

Possessive Pronouns: *mine, yours, his, hers, theirs, ours, its* take the place of possessive nouns. If this isn't *ours*, it must be *theirs*. *Yours* is much better than *mine*.

Tables below show the breakdown of the **English personal pronouns** along the four dimensions of **case**, **person**, **number**, and **gender**.

Singular	Subjective/Nominative			Objective			Possessive		
	Male	Female	Neutral	Male	Female	Neutral	Male	Female	Neutral
First Person	I			me			mine		
Second Person	you			you			yours		
Third Person	he	she	it	him	her	it	his	hers	its

Plural	Subjective/Nominative			Objective			Possessive		
--------	-----------------------	--	--	-----------	--	--	------------	--	--

each sentence. Personal, Demonstrative, Relative, Reflexive, Indefinite, etc.

Pronoun or Adjective Identify the function of the word in the sentence. Demonstrative, Interrogative, and Indefinite pronouns acting as adjectives.

Pronouns Practice Identify each pronoun in a sentence by clicking on it. Random sentences are given each time.

Pronoun: Who whom Whose Learn how to use subjective, objective, and possessive forms of the pronoun *Who*.

	Male	Female	Neutral	Male	Female	Neutral	Male	Female	Neutral
First Person	<i>we</i>			<i>us</i>			<i>ours</i>		
Second Person	<i>you</i>			<i>you</i>			<i>yours</i>		
Third Person	<i>they</i>			<i>them</i>			<i>theirs</i>		

Case and personal pronouns

Always use nominative case pronoun if pronoun is a part of the subject.

In the following example the pronoun is a part of the subject so subject pronoun should be used.

My sister and **me** went to the movie. (**Incorrect**)

My sister and **I** went to the movie. (**Correct**)

Always use objective case pronoun if pronoun is part of the object.

In the following example the pronoun is a direct object so object pronoun should be used.

My sister took a picture of him and **I**. (**Incorrect**)

My sister took a picture of him and **me**. (**Correct**)

Person and personal pronouns :)

Personal pronouns are called personal because they indicate a person speaking, spoken to, or spoken about. Personal pronoun refers to a specific individual(singular) or a group(plural).

I saw *you* when *she* talked to *them*.

The pronoun *I* refers to the person speaking.

The pronoun *you* refers to the person spoken to.

The pronoun *she* and *them* refer to persons spoken about.

Number and personal pronouns

The number shows whether the pronoun refers to a single person or thing or more than one person or things. tells what verb to use – singular or plural.

He is late. using singular form of the verb **to be** - *is*

We are late. using plural form of the verb **to be** - *are*

Remember that pronoun *you*, whether it is plural or singular, always takes a plural form of the verb **to be**.

Correct	Incorrect
<i>You are</i> late.	<i>You is</i> late.
<i>You were</i> tired.	<i>You was</i> tired.

Gender and Personal pronouns

Some of the personal pronouns have gender, which means that they are masculine (male), feminine (female) neuter (neither male or female). Knowing the gender of antecedent, we can choose a pronoun with matching gender.

Alex is my brother. I like *him*.

This is Nancy. *She* is ten.

This is my watch. Give *it* to me. Demonstrative Pronouns

Demonstrative Pronouns point out a specific persons, animals, places, things or ideas.
List of Demonstrative pronouns: *this, that, these, those*

That is his book. *This* is an excellent question.
I want to exchange *this* for *that* and *these* for *those*.

Intensive Pronouns

Intensive pronouns (also called **emphatic**) end with *self* or *selves* and emphasize (intensify) a noun or another pronoun. They make you notice the nouns and pronouns they go with.

Instructor *himself* ordered this product.
In that sentence, the pronoun is *himself* and it goes with the noun *Instructor*.

We did all the work *ourselves*.
In that sentence, the pronoun is *ourselves* and it goes with the pronoun *We*.

List of Intensive pronouns: *myself, yourself, himself, herself, itself, oneself, ourselves, themselves, yourselves*

Table shows **English Intensive pronouns** classified by **gender, person** and **number**.

	Singular			Plural		
	Male	Female	Neutral	Male	Female	Neutral
First Person	<i>myself</i>			<i>ourselves</i>		
Second Person	<i>yourself</i>			<i>yourselves</i>		
Third Person	<i>himself</i>	<i>herself</i>	<i>itself</i>	<i>themselves</i>		

Reflexive Pronouns

Reflexive pronouns are the same as **intensive pronouns** (see above) but they don't intensify; they point back to the subject of the sentence.

He wanted to kick *himself* for even making that stupid comment.
I bought *myself* a new shirt.

Reflexive and intensive pronouns turn the action of the verb back to the subject of the sentence.
Never use a reflexive/intensive pronoun in place of a personal pronoun. They are correctly used only in reflexive or intensive roles.

The following sentences are incorrect.
Mary and **myself** went to the movie.
My father drove Mary and **myself** to the movie.

The following sentences are correct.
Mary and *I* went to the movie.

My father drove Mary and *me* to the movie.

More about reflexive intensive pronouns usage Indefinite pronouns

Indefinite pronouns do not refer to any particular persons or places or things. They replace nouns without specifying which noun they replace.

List of Indefinite pronouns

Singular: *another, anybody, anyone, anything, each, either, everybody, everyone, everything, little, much, neither, nobody, no one, nothing, one, other, somebody, someone, something*

Plural: *both, few, many, others, several*

Singular or plural: *all, any, more, most, none, some*

*Hint: Indefinite pronouns that end in -one or -body are always singular. //except none//
These words include: *anyone, everyone, someone, one, anybody, somebody, nobody.**

Examples: Pronouns that are **always singular**

Everybody can do *something*, but *nobody* can do *everything*.

Either looks like a good option.

Examples: Pronouns that are **always plural**

Few were late for the meeting.

Many bought tickets to the show.

For indefinite pronouns that can be **singular or plural**, it depends on what the indefinite pronoun refers to. There is a lot of furniture in the room; *some* is damaged.

some refers to furniture, which is singular.

There are many books there; *some* are very interesting.

some refers to books, which is plural.

Reciprocal Pronouns

Reciprocal Pronouns show a mutual relationship. They are *each other* and *one another*.

Each other is used when the group consists of just two people, animals or things.

One another is used when the groups consists of more than two people, animals ot things.

Examples

John and Bob respect *each other*.

We are commanded to love *one another*.

Relative Pronoun begins a subordinate clause and connects that clause to another noun that precedes it in the sentence. Relative pronouns list: *who, whom, whose, whoever, whomever, which, whichever, that, what, whatever.*

Examples

It is a book *that* is difficult to ignore.

The dog, *which* is a terrier, is four years old.
I will consider renting or buying, *whichever* works out best.

All relative pronouns do not change the form with gender, person, or number.
Only *who* changes form with case.

Subjective: *who*
Objective: *whom*
Possessive: *whose*

Examples

The girl *who* told me the story lives down the street.
The girl *whom* I chose will get a present.
I am not sure *whose* that is.
Interrogative Pronouns

Interrogative pronouns are used to begin or introduce interrogative sentences.
They are *who*, *whom*, *whose*, *what*, and *which*.
They are similar to the Relative Pronouns; the difference is their use in the sentence.

Examples

Whom did you invite to the party?
Which did you prefer?
Who did *what* to *whom*?
Possessive adjectives

Possessive adjectives (also called **determiners** or **determinative possessive pronouns**) always modify/describe a noun. They must be used together with nouns they are describing, and come in front of them.
There are seven of them in modern English: *my*, *your*, *his*, *her*, *its*, *our*, *their*.

His book is excellent.
Their house is new.
Highlighted words inform us to whom something belongs and their function is similar to those of adjectives.

More about possessive adjectives

Pronouns and Adjectives

Some words that function as pronouns may function as adjectives because they tell something about the noun modify rather than stand in for it.

Examine the following table to see the different roles of some words and remember that **Adjective describes a noun** and **Pronoun replaces a noun**.

Possessive Adjectives

My English is good.
I see *your* money.
His girl is a student.
I like *her* hair.
It is *our* place.
Their house is old.

Demonstrative Adjectives

I like *that* story.
These quizzes are nice.
Who did *this* work?.

Interrogative Adjectives

Which classes did you take?
Whose phone did you use?
What kind of pronoun is it?

Indefinite Adjectives

Many children like ice cream.
Did you want *some* bananas?
Is there *any* tea?
I need a *few* minutes.

Possessive Pronouns

Mine is better
Yours are gone.
I will take *his*.
I like *hers*.
It is *ours*.
I do not want *theirs*.

Demonstrative Pronouns

I like *that*.
These are nice quizzes.
Who did *this*?.

Interrogative Pronouns

Which did you like?
Whose did you break?
What is a pronoun?

Indefinite Pronouns

Many bought tickets to the show.
Some are not fresh.
No, there is not *any*?
I have a *few*.