

PRONOUNS

| Pronoun Chart | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| | Subject Pronouns | Object Pronouns | Possessive Adjectives | Possessive Pronouns | Reflexive Pronouns |
| 1st person | I | me | my | mine | myself |
| 2nd person | you | you | your | yours | yourself |
| 3rd person (male) | he | him | his | his | himself |
| 3rd person (female) | she | her | her | hers | herself |
| 3rd person | it | it | its | (not used) | itself |
| 1st person (plural) | we | us | our | ours | ourselves |
| 2nd person (plural) | you | you | your | yours | yourselves |
| 3rd person (plural) | they | them | their | theirs | themselves |

A **pronoun** is used **in place of a specific noun** mentioned earlier in a sentence so that you don't have to keep saying/writing that particular noun.

Example:

- The **coach** selected several **key points**. **He** wanted the team to memorize **them**.
(‘He’ replaces ‘the coach’; ‘them’ replaces ‘key points’)
- **Maria** loves **Saturday**. **It** is the day **she** gets her pocket money.
(The pronoun it replaces Saturday. The pronoun she replaces Maria.)

1. Subject Pronouns

Subject pronouns work as the subject of the verb in a sentence. A subject pronoun normally replaces the subject (a noun) of the previous sentence.

Example:

- Mike can't attend the party. **He** has gone to his grandparents.
- Marta is a good storyteller. **She** told a ghost story that scared everyone.

- Robert was an unwise king. He was the king of seven kingdoms. But he could not trust the people around him.
- Ellie loves watching movies. She loves watching movies, especially if they are comedies.

2. Object Pronouns:

Object pronouns work as the object of a verb i.e. they receive an action from the verb.

Position of object pronouns:

Object pronouns **come after** a verb or a preposition.

Example:

After verbs

- I'll give you a present on your birthday. (Give is a verb and You is object)
- Tell her that you'll take the job. (Tell is a verb and Her is object)
- The teacher dropped it. (Dropped is a verb and It is object)
- The children love us. (Loved is a verb and us is object)

After prepositions

- I have a great idea **for you**. (after preposition)
- She always writes e-mails **to us**.
- He's talking **to her** about **it**. (Two objects)

3. Possessive Pronouns:

Possessive pronouns are words used to show possession/ ownership/ relationship with the object or something in a sentence and avoid repeating words.

Important things to remember about possessive pronouns:

- A possessive pronoun show ownership/ relationship with something.
- It does not come before a noun.
- It can replace a noun.

Example:

- I thought my bag was lost, but the one Allen found was mine. (Here, 'mine' refers to 'my bag' which is an object)
- Their vacation will start next week. Ours is tomorrow. (Here, 'ours' refers to 'our vacation' which is a noun)
- Those four suitcases are ours. (Here, 'ours' refers to 'suitcases' which is an object)
- The chair next to the window is his. (Here, 'his' refers to 'chair' which is an object)

4. Reflexive Pronouns:

Reflexive pronoun Reflexive pronouns are used when the subject and the object of a verb in a sentence are the same.

Identification of reflexive pronouns: Reflexive pronouns end with -self or -selves

IMPORTANT THING ABOUT REFLEXIVE PRONOUNS:

- Reflexive pronoun **cannot be removed** from the sentence because the meaning of the sentence would be **incomplete**.
- A reflexive pronoun is used as an object.

Example:

- She allowed herself more time to get ready.
[She allowed more time to get ready. Who was given time?]
- The computer restarts itself every night.
[The computer restarts every night. How does it restart?]
- We told ourselves that we were so lucky to be alive.
[We told that we were so lucky to be alive. By whom were we told?]
- We have enjoyed ourselves.
[We have enjoyed. How did we enjoy?]
- You boys should make it yourselves.
[You boys should make it. Make how?]

5. Intensive Pronouns/ Emphatic Pronouns:

Intensive pronouns or Emphatic Pronouns just add emphasis/importance to a noun or a pronoun functioning as a subject.

IMPORTANT THING ABOUT EMPHATIC PRONOUNS:

- They can appear right after the subject or at the end of the sentence but **do not function as object**.
- Removing the emphatic pronoun will not change the meaning of the sentence.

Example:

- I will do it myself. (Here, 'myself' is not an object) [I will do it.]
- I myself saw the missing boat into the harbor. [I saw the missing boat into the harbor.]
- We intend to do all the work ourselves. [We intend to do all the work.]
- You yourselves are responsible for this mess. [You are responsible for the mess.]

6. Relative Pronouns:

A relative pronoun is a pronoun that relates a noun or a pronoun to rest of the sentence.

It is a pronoun that refers to a noun about which something is being said.

Example:

He is the boy whom I helped yesterday.

Explanation:

Whom is a **relative pronoun** that relates the rest of the sentence to a **noun** which is the boy.

Identification of a relative pronoun:

A relative pronoun is placed directly after a noun which it modifies.

If there is no noun before a relative pronoun then the statement is indirect question.

Function of relative pronouns:

| Relative Pronouns | |
|-------------------|---------------------------------------|
| WHO | Relates to people (subject) |
| WHOM | Relates to people (whom) |
| WHICH | Relates to animals and objects |
| THAT | Relates to people, animals and things |
| WHOSE | Refers to possession |
| WHERE | Refers to places |
| WHEN | Refers to time |
| WHY | Refers to reason |
| WHAT | Relates to things |

Example:

- The car that was stolen was the one they loved most.
- A person who loves nature is a good person.
- Our school, which was founded in 1995, is being renovated.

Indirect Questions:

- I don't know whose car is this.
- I know whom you are meeting today.
- I do not know why he is laughing at them.

7. Demonstrative Pronouns:

Demonstrative pronouns are those words that

- Replaces a noun.
- Indicate distance (near/ far) of something or the speaker.

Demonstrative Pronouns list

| Demonstrative Pronouns | | |
|------------------------|-------|-------|
| | Near | Far |
| singular | This | That |
| Plural | These | Those |

Examples of demonstrative pronoun:

- The food you're cooking smells delicious. (That smells delicious.)
- The pretzel-like yoga move we're doing really hurts. (This really hurts.)
- Bananas are unripe. (These are unripe.)
- Are the buns fresh? (Are those fresh?)

TIP:

Identifying a demonstrative pronoun:

A demonstrative pronoun comes before or after a verb.

Example:

- This is very yummy! (Verb is)
- I would like those, please (Modal verb would)
- I am not sure that is how you do it. (Verb is)
- Bring me those. (Verb bring)

8. Interrogative Pronouns:

- An interrogative pronoun is used for asking questions about things (**nouns/pronouns**) about which we have no information.
- These pronouns are special because they all start with "Wh".

The interrogative pronouns are:

1. Whom
2. Whose
3. Who
4. What
5. Which

IMPORTANT:

- **Do not confuse** them (Interrogative pronouns) with words starting with 'wh' words.
- "**who, what, where, why, and when**" in reality, **these are not all interrogative pronouns.**
- **They can be used for asking questions in general. question tags.**
- **Interrogative pronouns are used for asking questions about nouns/pronouns to provide information about them (noun/pronoun).**

Interrogative pronouns and change in function:

These pronouns (**Interrogative Pronouns**) can also be used in sentences that are not questions. In those cases, these pronouns are not interrogative.

Example:

- Which is why I always ask you to be careful.
- Do what you like.
- It was I who gave to permission to work here.
- The boy whose book was stolen yesterday is absent today.
- The man whom you are after is in hiding since last month.

Functions of interrogative pronouns:

- Whom (used for objects + used after preposition)
- Whose (used for possession or something belonging to someone)
- Who (used as subject)
- What (used for people and objects as subjects or objects)
- Which (used for specific information about people and objects)

Examples of interrogative pronouns according to their functions:

- What is your friend's name?
- Who was driving the car?
- Whom did you speak to?
- Which is your car?
- Whose is that car parked in front of my gate?
- Whose baby is crying so loudly? (possessive case)

TIP:

Interrogative pronouns may come

1. Before a verb as a subject
2. After a verb as an object
3. May come after a preposition

Examples

1. Who ate my pizza?
2. Whom did you borrow that broom from?
3. You went with whom? (preposition)

9. Indefinite pronouns:

Indefinite pronouns refer to objects, beings, or places in general (without naming).

(They are called "indefinite" because they do not refer to the exact object, being, or place).

List of indefinite pronouns:

Somebody, Someone, Something, Nobody, no one, nothing, everybody, everyone, everything, another, anybody, anyone, anything, each, either, one, other, neither, much, several, Many, Others, few, both, fewer, they, all, any, more, most, none, some, such.

Examples:

- **No one** wants to watch a movie.
- **Anyone** can be a movie star.
- **Everything** went wrong last night
- **Each** of the players has a doctor. (of the + noun which is prepositional phrase structure)
- **Many** have expressed their views.
- **Either** may be good for you.

10. Distributive pronouns:

Distributive pronoun considers members of a group separately/ individually, rather than collectively.

List of distributive pronouns and its function:

| Singular noun and singular verb | Plural noun and singular verb | |
|---|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Each (for a small group/ definite) ○ Every (for members collectively) ○ Either (for a group made up of two things) ○ Neither (none in the group) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Each of ○ Either of ○ Neither of ○ None of | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Any of ○ Anyone ○ Each one ○ Every one ○ Every one of |

Examples:

Singular noun and singular verb (verb is set according to singular subject)

- Every **student** got a medal.
- Each **jacket** is custom made. "Made" is not a noun but acting an adjective.
- Anyone can ask a **question** at the end.

Plural noun singular verb (on surface things are plural/group but every item in the group is taken individually which makes them singular so the verb is set keeping in mind the individual items)

- Each of the **articles** is informative.
- Neither of the **children** is eligible to draw the benefits.
- Either of **you** is all right for the job.
- None of the **members** agreed to increase the building fund.
- Any of **them** can attend the meeting.
- Every one of **you** is brilliant, according to the principal.
- Each one of **you** will be permitted to attend the class.

11. Reciprocal pronoun:

A reciprocal pronoun is used to indicate that two or more people are carrying out or have carried out an action of some type and have same result.

OR

We use reciprocal pronouns when each of two or more subjects act in the same way towards other and receive same result.

List of Reciprocal pronoun:

- i. Each other
- ii. One another

Usage of Reciprocal pronoun:

- **Each other** is used when we want to refer to two (02) people.
- **One another** is used when we want to refer to more than two people.

Examples:

- Terry and Jack were talking to **each other** in the hallway.
- Both teams played hard against **each other**.
- When I asked for my money, the two brothers looked at **each other**.
- The ten prisoners were all blaming **one another**.
- The students congratulated **one another** after giving practice speeches.
- Henry and his colleagues were talking to **one another** after the board meeting.