

PRONOUNS

Pronouns are similar to nouns, because they make a reference to a person, place, thing, etc.

Specifically, Pronouns are words which take the place of a noun. In a sense, the pronoun acts as a substitute for the noun.

Note: The original noun, which the pronoun substitutes, is known as the “antecedent.”

PERSONAL PRONOUNS

Personal pronouns include: He, She, It, They, Them

Example:

Harry walks to the park after classes.

He walks to the park after classes.

HARRY is the antecedent.

HE is the pronoun.

Example:

Lisa takes a trip to the store.

She takes a trip to the store.

LISA is the antecedent.

SHE is the pronoun.

DIFFERENT FORMS OF PRONOUNS

Pronouns have different forms, depending on their “count” (that is the number of something they refer to).

Example:

I like to eat chocolate. (singular)

We like to eat chocolate. (plural)

Additionally, they have different forms depending on whether they are used as a subject of the sentence or object.

Example:

I wrestled with the bear.

The bear wrestled me.

Subject Forms

| Singular | Plural |
|-------------|--------|
| I | We |
| You | You |
| He, She, It | They |

Object Forms

| Singular | Plural |
|--------------|--------|
| Me | Us |
| You | You |
| Him, Her, It | Them |

POSSESSIVE PRONOUNS

Some pronouns show possession.

These pronouns include:

My, Mine, Your, Yours, His, Her, Its, Ours, Their, Theirs

| Singular | Plural |
|---------------|---------------|
| My, Mine | Our, Ours |
| Your, Yours | Your, Yours |
| His, Her, Its | Their, Theirs |

Example:

The toy is mine.

The toy is ours.

The toy belongs to him.

The toy belongs to her.

REFLEXIVE PRONOUNS

Some pronouns refer to the “-self.” We call these “Reflexive Pronouns.”

Reflexive Pronouns include:

Myself, Yourself, Yourselves, Ourselves

Herself, Himself, Themselves, Itself

Personal pronouns correspond to specific reflexive pronouns.

| Personal | Reflexive |
|---------------------------|----------------------|
| I, me, my, mine | Myself |
| You, Your, Yours | Yourself, Yourselves |
| We, Us, Our, Ours | Ourselves |
| He, Him, His | Himself |
| She, Her, Hers | Herself |
| They, Their, Them, Theirs | Themselves |
| It, Its | Itself |

However, the corresponding pronouns for “his” and “their” as in “his-self” and/or “their-selves” do not exist in modern formal English. The appropriate forms are “himself” and “themselves.”

DEMONSTRATIVE PRONOUNS

Demonstrative pronouns, as substitutes, point to specific persons, places, or things. They include: This, That, These, and Those.

Example:

This is wonderful.

That is stupendous.

These are delightful.

Those are excellent.

Note: The difference between a demonstrative pronoun and a demonstrative determiner is that the pronouns work alone.

Example:

This car is fast. (Determiner)

This is fast. (Pronoun)

INTERROGATIVE PRONOUNS

Interrogative pronouns help to form questions.

Interrogative Pronouns include: Who, Whom, What, and Which.

Which seeds can sprout in early spring?

What seeds do you typically plant?

Who will grow these plants?

Whom did the gardener refer to?

RELATIVE PRONOUNS

Relative pronouns are: Who, Whom, Whose, That, and Which.

Relative pronouns introduce relative clauses.

Example:

The teacher who reads controversial books at the middle school has been suspended.

INDEFINITE PRONOUNS

Indefinite pronouns often help to show ambiguity with relation to something. That is, such pronouns are more general than specific.

Common indefinite pronouns include:

Some, Somebody, Someone, Something

Any, Anyone, Anybody, Anything

None, No One, Nobody, Nothing

Everyone, Everybody, Everything, All

Either, Neither, Both, Each

PRONOUN-ANTECEDENT AGREEMENT

Additionally, pronouns and antecedents (the word which the pronoun represents) must agree in person, in number, and in gender.

Example:

Jack brought his guitar.

Cindy loves her computer.

Fast food knock-offs are problematic, since Mexicans base their wonderful dishes around basic ingredients, making them very healthy.

INDEFINITE PRONOUNS

Again, indefinite pronouns do not refer to any one person, place, or thing. When considering the agreement of indefinite pronouns, you should consider context.

Example:

Everyone is going to his/her dorm after dinner.

Everybody on the women's soccer team has her jersey.