

Pronouns

Overview

<u>Personal Pronoun - Subject</u>	I	you	he/she/it	we	they
<u>Personal Pronoun - Object</u>	me	you	him/her/it	us	them
<u>Possessive Pronouns</u>	my	your	his/hers/its	ours	theirs
<u>Reflexive Pronouns</u>	myself	yourself	himself/herself/itself	ourselves	themselves

Pronouns

A pronoun usually refers to something already mentioned in a sentence or piece of text. They are used instead of nouns to prevent repetition of the noun to which they refer. One of the most common pronouns is *it*.

Example (Singular):

Without a pronoun:

The train was late, **the train** had been delayed. (Sounds horrid, doesn't it?)

With a pronoun:

The train was late, **it** had been delayed. (Much better!)

In this example **the train** is singular, therefore the pronoun must be singular also - **it**.

Example (Plural):

Without a pronoun:

The trains were late, **the trains** had been delayed. (Still sounds horrid, doesn't it?)

With a pronoun:

The trains were late, **they** had been delayed. (Much better!)

In this example **the trains** are plural, therefore the pronoun must be plural also - **they**.

Personal Pronouns

<u>Personal Pronoun - Subject</u>	I	you	he/she/it	we	they
<u>Personal Pronoun - Object</u>	me	you	him/her/it	us	them

The personal pronoun is used to refer to someone or something already mentioned (he, she, it etc.), or to refer to the person speaking (I, me etc.) or the person listening (you).

	FORM	FUNCTION
First Person Pronoun		
singular	I	subject
	me	object
plural	we	subject
	us	object
Second Person Pronoun		
singular	you	subject
	you	object
plural	you	subject
	you	object
Third Person Pronoun		
singular	he, she, it	subject
	him, her, it	object
plural	they	subject
	them	object

!Note

I, me, he, she, him, her, you = a person
you, we, us = people
it = thing
they, them = things or people

Possessive Pronoun

	I	You (singular and	He/She/It	We	They
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		plural)			
Possessive Pronouns	mine	yours	his/hers/its	ours	theirs

The possessive pronoun shows who the thing being referred to belongs to or is associated with.

In English these pronouns change form to show their function.

	FORM
First Person Pronoun	
singular	mine
plural	ours
Second Person Pronoun	
singular	yours
plural	yours
Third Person Pronoun	
singular	his, hers, its
plural	theirs

For example:-

Q. Whose is this web site?

A. It's mine.

Q. Does Lynne own this web site?

A. Yes, it's hers.

Q. Does Lynne own the Internet?

A. No. It's ours.

!Note

my, your, his/her/its, our and their are possessive determiners (sometimes called possessive adjectives).

Watch out for the following:-

Possessive Pronoun	Short Form of 'it is'
its	it's
(no apostrophe)	(with apostrophe)

Reflexive Pronoun

	I	he/she/it	you (singular)	you (plural)	we	they
<u>Reflexive Pronouns</u>	myself	himself/herself/itself	yourself	yourselves	ourselves	themselves

A reflexive pronoun shows that when someone or something affected by an action is the same as the person or thing doing it. This form is used less in English than some other languages.

For example:-

- She looked at **herself** in the mirror.
- He washed **himself**.
- They tested **themselves**.

Indefinite Pronoun

Indefinite pronouns refer to things or people without mentioning what or who they are.

For example:-

- **Somebody** stole my car.
- Does **anybody** know who she is?

Other indefinite pronouns include - anything, anyone, something, someone, nothing, nobody, none, no one

!Note

For people we use: anybody or anyone | somebody or someone | nobody or no one
For things we use: anything, something, nothing, none

See if you can make sense of this amusing story:-

Somebody, Everybody, Anybody, and Nobody

Once there were four managers. Their names were: Somebody, Everybody, Anybody, and Nobody. They were very busy people, but whenever there was an important job to

be done, Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did. When Nobody did it, Everybody got angry because it was Everybody's job. Everybody thought that Somebody would do it, but Nobody realized that Nobody would do it. So consequently Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have done in the first place.

For example, Everybody had a good idea. Nobody thought somebody would follow it through. Somebody thought anybody could work on it. Anybody thought everybody should do it. Eveybody thought someone would do it. So nobody did anything. Now they all worked in the same company and the company held a great competition: Who could produce the best logo? Everybody thought anybody could win something. Anybody thought somebody should win. Somebody thought everybody would win. Nobody thought nobody would win. What did they win? Nothing!