Pronoun

What is a pronoun?

Pronouns are some of the most useful words in the English language. They are used in the place of a noun to avoid it having to be named twice. For example: *Salman threw the ball and it came back to him*. In this sentence, "it" is a pronoun that represents the ball, and "him" is a pronoun that refers to Salman. Without pronouns, we would have to say *Salman threw the ball and the ball came back to Salman*.

Definition of Pronoun

In English, the part of speech used as a substitute for an antecedent noun that is clearly understood, and with which it agrees in person, number, and gender. Pronouns are classified as **personal** (*I, we, you, he, she, it, they*), **demonstrative** (*this, these, that, those*), **relative** (*who, which, that, as*), **indefinite** (*each, all, everyone, either, one, both, any, such, somebody*), **interrogative** (*who, which, what*), reflexive (*myself, herself*), **possessive** (*mine, yours, his, hers, theirs*). There are also **pronominal adjectives**, sometimes called possessive adjectives (*my, your, his, her, our, their*).

Subjective Pronouns

Subjective pronouns are used to replace the subject in a sentence. You might also see them called "personal" pronouns, as they designate the person speaking (*I, me, we, us*), the person spoken to (*you*), or the person or thing spoken about (*he, she, it, they, him, her, them*).

The following commonly used words are subjective pronouns:

- I
- we
- you (singular and plural)
- he
- she
- it
- they

Examplesof Personal Pronoun

I will be leaving soon.
You are welcome.
She is the new teacher.
He speaks three languages.
They are very friendly neighbors.

Objective Pronouns

Objective pronouns are used as the object of a verb or a preposition.

The following commonly used words are objective pronouns:

- me

- us
- you (singular and plural)
- her
- him
- it
- them

Examples of Objective Pronoun

They offered **me** a ride. ("Me" is the object of the verb "offered.")
This letter is addressed to **me**. ("Me" is the object of the preposition "to.")
They gave **us** free tickets to the show. ("Us" is the object of the verb "gave.")

Possessive Pronouns

A possessive pronoun designates ownership and can substitute for noun phrases.

The followingcommonly used words are possessive pronouns:

- mine
- ours
- yours (singular and plural)
- hers
- his
- theirs

Examples of Possessive Pronoun

The green gloves are **mine**.
That cat is **hers**.
The red house is **theirs**.

Possessive Adjectives / Pronominal Adjectives

"Pronominal" describes something that resembles a pronoun, as by specifying a person, place, or thing, while functioning primarily as another part of speech. A pronominal adjective is an adjective that resembles a pronoun. "Her" in "her car" is a pronominal adjective.

The following commonly used words are possessive adjectives:

- my
- our
- your
- her
- his

- their

Reflexive Pronouns

Reflexive pronouns might be the easiest group to remember because they all have one thing in common: the ending "self" or "selves." That's because reflexive pronouns show how the actions of an aforementioned person or group affects him or her (or them).

The following commonly used words are reflexive pronouns:

- myself
- yourself
- herself
- himself
- itself
- ourselves
- yourselves
- themselves

Examples of Reflexive Pronoun

I bought **myself** a new car.
That man thinks a great deal of **himself**.
We may be deceiving **ourselves**.

Intensive Pronouns

Intensive and reflexive pronouns are actually the exact same words (ending with "self" or "selves"), but they function differently in a sentence. Intensive pronouns not only refer back to a previously mentioned person or people, but they also emphasize. As their name suggests, they intensify.
The following commonly used words are intensive pronouns:

- myself
- yourself
- herself
- himself
- itself
- ourselves
- yourselves
- themselves

Examplesof Intensive Pronoun

I **myself** was certain of the facts.
The trouble is in the machine **itself**.
The cooks **themselves** eat after all the guests have finished.

Indefinite Pronouns

As the word "indefinite" suggests, these pronouns do not specify the identity of their referents. They are vaguer than other pronouns.

The following commonly used words are indefinite pronouns:

- all
- another
- any
- anybody
- anyone
- anything
- both
- each
- either
- everybody
- everyone
- everything
- few
- many
- most
- neither
- nobody
- none
- no one
- nothing
- one
- other
- others
- several
- some
- somebody
- someone
- something
- such

Examplesof Indefinite Pronouns

Both were candidates.
No one is home.
Several of the workers went home sick.

Demonstrative Pronouns

Demonstrative pronouns specify a particular person or thing.

The following commonly used words are demonstrative pronouns:

- such
- that
- these
- this
- those

Examplesof Demonstrative Pronouns

I don't much care for **these**.
Who's **that**?
Such are the fortunes of war.

Interrogative Pronouns

This group of pronouns question which individual referent or referents are intended by the rest of the sentence.

The following commonly used words are interrogative pronouns:

- what
- whatever
- which
- whichever
- who
- whoever
- whom
- whomever
- whose

Examplesof Interrogative Pronoun

Who left?
Which of these is yours?
Do **whatever** you please.

Relative Pronouns

Relative pronouns introduce a dependent clause and refer to an antecedent (simply the word or phrase to which a pronoun refers). For instance, *who* in *the child who is wearing a hat* or *that* in *the house that you live in.*

If learning English is your dream, never give up your dream, fight for your dream and live in your dream. ***Atik Sir***.

The following commonly used words are relative pronouns:

- as
- that
- what
- whatever
- which

- whichever
- who
- whoever
- whom
- whomever
- whose

Examplesof Relative Pronoun

The car **that** has a flat tire needs to be towed.
The visitor **who** came yesterday left his phone number.
Do **whatever** you like.

Archaic Pronouns

There are several pronouns that have fallen out of common usage but appear frequently in older texts, so there is still a good chance that you will encounter them. "Thee" is an old word for "you" used only when addressing one person, while "thy" is an old word for "your." "Thine" indicates the one or ones belonging to thee.

The following commonly used words are archaic pronouns:

- thou
- thee
- thy
- thine

Examplesof Archaic Pronoun

Thou shalt not kill.
With this ring, I **thee** wed.
Thy name is more hateful than **thy** face.
To **thine** own self be true.