

# **PRONOUNS**

Week 22-

## WHAT IS A PRONOUN

A PRONOUN takes the place of one or more nouns. When you write you do not need to keep repeating nouns, you can replace some of the nouns with pronouns. The noun that the pronoun refers to is called the ANTECEDENT.

Sara asked Brett and Leah to go to the seashore with Sara. Sara, Brett, and Leah spoke to Ms. Lanski. Ms. Lanski gave Sara, Brett, and Leah a special book. The book was about sea life.

Sara asked Brett and Leah to go to the seashore with **her**. **They** spoke to Ms. Lanski. **She** gave **them** a special book. **It** was about sea life.

Pronouns are singular and plural just like nouns. The pronoun must agree with the antecedent.

Singular: I, me, you, him, she, her, it. Plural: we, us, you, they, them.

## PERSONAL PRONOUNS

PERSONAL PRONOUNS have different forms depending on the persons or things to which they refer.

Personal Pronouns	Singular	Plural
First Person: person or persons making the statement (the speaker or writer)	I, me,	we, us
Second Person: person or persons being spoken to or written to	you	you
Third Person: person or persons (or things) being spoken or written about	she, her, he, him, it,	they, them

Third person singular pronouns show gender: he, him (boys); she, her (girls); it (neuter). Pronouns and antecedents must agree in number and gender.

## SUBJECT PRONOUNS

Not all pronouns can be used as the subject of a sentence. Only the following can be used to take the place of a subject noun.

Subject Pronouns (Nominative Case)	
Singular	Plural
I	we
you	you
he, she, it	they

**Aki** did a project on insects. **She** did a project on insects.

## OBJECT PRONOUNS

Not all pronouns can be used as the object of a sentence. Only the following can be used to take the place of an object noun. Object pronouns follow action verbs and words such as *to*, *with*, *for*, and *at*.

Object Pronouns (Objective Case)	
Singular	Plural
me	us
you	you
him, her, it	them

Mr. Rossi fed the **horses**. Mr. Rossi fed **them**.

## USING I AND ME

When you talk or write about yourself you use the pronouns *I* or *me*. *I* is to be used as a subject pronoun and *me* as an object pronoun.

*I* study.

Kim studies with *me*.

When you talk about yourself and another person always name yourself last.

*Kim and I* are going to help Aaron. Aaron thanked *Kim and me*.

## POSSESSIVE PRONOUNS

You can use pronouns in the place of possessive nouns. They are called **POSSESSIVE PRONOUNS**. Some possessive pronouns must appear before a noun.

Possessive Pronouns Used with Nouns	
Singular	Plural
my	our
your	your
his, her, its	their

Pam feeds **Pam's** fish. Pam feeds **her** fish.

## MORE POSSESSIVE PRONOUNS

Some possessive pronouns can stand alone.

Possessive Pronouns Used with Nouns	
Singular	Plural
mine	ours
yours	yours
his, hers, its	theirs

**My** book is green. The green book is **mine**.



## PRONOUNS AFTER LINKING VERBS

A linking verb can join the subject of a sentence with a predicate noun. A pronoun can replace a predicate noun and is called a **PREDICATE PRONOUN**. Always use subject pronouns after linking verbs.

The champions were **they**. The team members were **she** and **I**.

To check that the pronoun is correct, reverse the order of the sentence.

*They were* is correct. *Them were* is not correct.

## PRONOUNS IN COMPOUNDS

You can substitute a pronoun for a noun in a compound subject and a compound object. It is polite to mention yourself last with the pronoun *I*.

*She* and *he* invited the parents.

Pam and *I* will speak at the assembly.

The principal congratulated Tom and *me*.

The class invited *her*, *him*, and *me*.

An award was given to Ana and *me*.

If you are not sure if *I* or *me* is correct, drop the other noun or pronoun and say the sentence again.

Yes: The principal congratulated *me*. No: The principal congratulated *I*.

## USING WHO, WHOM, WHOSE

The words *who*, *whom*, and *whose* are forms of the pronoun *who* and are called INTERROGATIVE PRONOUNS. They are often used to form questions.

Use *who* as a subject pronoun. **Who** is running for office?

Use *whom* as an object pronoun. **Whom** has Berry chosen?

To check to see if *whom* is correct make a sentence out of the question:

Barry has chosen *whom*.

*Whose* is the possessive form of the pronoun *who*. **Whose** vote counts?

Do not confuse *whose* (interrogative pronoun) with *who's* (contraction).

## DEMONSTRATIVE PRONOUNS

Some pronouns are used to point out specific persons or things.

**This** is a map of New York City. Is **that** Central Park?

There are four demonstrative pronouns.

Singular: this (near), that (far)

Plural: these (near), those (far)

These words can also be used in front of a noun to form a demonstrative  
Adjective:

Demonstrative Pronoun: These are busy streets.

Demonstrative Adjective: These streets are busy.

## INDEFINITE PRONOUNS

Pronouns that so not have an antecedent are called INDEFINITE PRONOUNS. They do not refer to a specific person, place, or thing.

Indefinite Pronouns				
Singular			Plural	Either
anybody	everything	either	both	all
anyone	nobody	neither	few	any
anything	nothing	no one	Many	most
each	somebody	one	ones	none
everybody	someone	another	others	some
everyone	something	other	several	

**Someone** left a book on the desk. **Many** are excited about the lesson.

Indefinite pronouns must agree in gender and number with the nouns they may refer to.

## CONTRACTIONS WITH PRONOUNS

A CONTRACTION may be formed by combining a pronoun and a verb. Use an apostrophe ( ' ) in place of the letter or letters that are left out.

Pronoun and Verb	Contraction
I am	I'm
he is	he's
she is	she's
it is	it's
you are	you're
we are	we're
they are	they're

Pronoun and Verb	Contraction
I have	I've
he has	he's
she has	she's
it has	it's
you have	you've
we have	we've
they have	they've

## DOUBLE SUBJECTS

Be careful to not use **DOUBLE SUBJECTS** by using a noun and a pronoun to name it in the same subject.

Incorrect	Correct
Mary she is my sister	Mary is my sister. She is my sister.
Her hat it is pretty.	Her hat is pretty. It is pretty.

## USING WE AND US WITH NOUNS

Sometimes you use a noun with the pronoun *we* or *us* to make clear whom you are talking about. Use the same pronoun as you would if the noun were not there. Use *we* with noun subjects or after linking verbs.

*We girls* took our places on the field. The best players are *we girls*.

Use the pronoun *us* with a noun that follows an action verb or a word such as *to*, *for*, *with*, or *at*.

The girls threw it to *us boys*. They will not beat *us boys*.

To decide whether *we* or *us* is correct, read the sentence without the noun.

*We friends* watch the game. *We* watch the game.

The coach talks to *us players*. The coach talks to *us*.



## REFLEXIVE AND INTENSIVE PRONOUNS

Reflexive and intensive pronouns are formed by adding –self or –selves to the end of the pronoun.

A REFLEXIVE PRONOUN refers to another word in the sentence. It cannot be omitted without changing the meaning of the sentence.

The coach congratulated **himself**. The coach congratulated. (meaning change)

An INTENSIVE PRONOUN is used with a noun or pronoun to emphasize or intensify it. It can be omitted without changing the meaning.

He himself had training these fine athletes. He had trained these fine athletes.

Both of these pronouns must agree with their antecedents in gender, number, and person. Also remember that -self is for singular pronouns and –selves is for plural.

## PRONOUNS IN COMPARISONS

You often use pronouns to make comparisons.

I like the viola better than **she**.

Suki plays as well as **he**.

To make sure you are using the correct pronoun finish the thought to finish the comparison. When in use the completion does not need to be added.

I like the viola better than **she** likes it.

Suki plays as well as **he** plays.

The pronoun in a comparison may change the meaning of the sentence if you are not careful.

He likes music as much as **her**. (. . . as much as he likes **her**.)

He likes music as much as **she**. (. . . as much as **she** likes music.)

## PRONOUNS AND HOMOPHONES

HOMOPHONES are words that sound alike but have different spellings and meanings.

Homophones	Meaning	Sentence
it's its	it is belonging to it; of it	<b>It's</b> a beautiful bird! Take <b>its</b> picture.
they're their there	they are belonging to them in that place	<b>They're</b> add birds. <b>Their</b> wings are big! <b>There</b> is a black one.
you're your	you are belonging to you	<b>You're</b> very lucky. Get <b>your</b> camera.

## MORE HOMOPHONES

Homophone	Meaning
our hour	belonging to us sixty minutes
weak week	not strong seven days
hear here	listen to at this place
blue blew	a color past tense of blow
for four	shows the receiver of an action the number 4
know no	to understand to be true used to express refusal