

PRONOUNS

Pronouns are used instead of nouns in a sentence so that you don't need to keep repeating the noun itself.

Proper nouns:

- *William, London, Thames, Everest, England, ...*

Common nouns (with an article):

- *a dog, a tree, a mistake, an interview, ...*

Personal pronouns:

used to replace proper or common nouns. They come in pairs: *I/me, you/you, he/him, she/her, it/it, we/us, they/them.*

- *I* like chocolate
- *You* like bananas
- *We* dislike pop music
- *They* live in a big city
- She smiled at *me*
- He loves *her*
- The money was given to *them*

The difference between *I* and *me*:

- My friend likes coffee. I like coffee too = My friend and I like coffee.
- The teacher gave James a book and he gave *me* a book too = He gave James and *me* a book.
- My husband is not amused and *I* am not amused either = My husband and *I* are not

'Between you and *me*' or 'between you and *I*'?

You and I = we (I am, you are, we are, ...)

You and me = us. (*It's for you, me, us, ...*)

Incorrect: Between we.

Correct: Between you and me.

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'*myself*' – has two roles in a sentence:

Reflexive – doing something to oneself

- I hate *myself*
- I hurt *myself* when I fell over.

To emphasise something:

- *Myself*, I prefer British English
- I'll do it quicker *myself*

Stressed pronouns: I/me, you/you, he/him, she/her, we/us, they/them

- Follow a preposition: It's for *me*.
- Part of comparison: He's smaller than *I*. ('*I*' sounds old-fashioned; '*me*' is modern)
- Follow the verb "to be": It's *he* who said it.
- Stand alone: *She* does.

Relative pronouns: *who, which, that, whose, of which* and *whom* connect a noun to a clause.

- You cannot bite the hand *that* feeds you.
- The book, *which* I laid on the desk, is missing.
- The person *whom* I saw was a visitor. ('*whom*' is a bit old-fashioned; '*who*' is modern)

Note: Few people use *whom* in spoken English.

Relative personal pronouns of possession: *whose*

- Paul, *whose* father was a mechanic, followed in his footsteps.

Subject pronoun - subject of a sentence that asks the question: *who* (if the answer contains *I, he, she, we* or *they*, the question should use *who*).

- Question: Who ate my apple?
- Answer: *She* did.

Object pronoun within the question: *whom* (if the answer contains *me, him, her, us* or *them*)

- Question: To *whom* did you speak?
- Answer: I spoke *to her*. ('*I*' is the subject and '*to her*' is the object)
- Question: *Whom* shall I give this to?
- The person *whom* you saw is famous.

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Direct and indirect object pronouns:

- I'll give it to him. ('it' is the direct object; 'him' is the indirect object)
- James brought the puppy round to show us. = He brought it round.
('It' is the direct object; 'us' is the indirect object)

Interrogative pronouns are used to introduce questions: *Who, Which, What, Whose*

- *Who* is that?
- *Which* side of the bed do you prefer? (offering choice from a definite set of options)
- *What* do you want? (Choice from a range of unknowns)
- *Whose* dictionary is this?

Possessive pronouns:

Adjective: *my, thy, your, his, her, our, their*

- *My* book is expensive

Alone: *mine, thine, yours, his, hers, ours, theirs*

- It's *mine*.

Note: 'thy' and 'thine' are very old English possessive pronouns

Demonstrative pronouns show that something is either the subject or the object of the sentence: *this, that, these, those, any, either, neither, some, none, all ...*

As the subject:

- *This* one! *That* one! *These* ones! *Those* ones!
- *None* of them! *All* of them! *Any* of them!
- *Either* of them! *Neither* of them! *Some* of them!

As the object:

- Elena needs *this*.
- Don't do *that*.
- Gloria wants *these*.
- Send me two of *those*.

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Incorrect: Those are them.

Correct: Those are they.

Incorrect: That's them.

Correct: There they are.

Indefinite pronouns refer to people or things without saying exactly who or what they are:

- Somebody, anybody, nobody, everybody
- Someone, anyone, no one, everyone
- Something, anything, nothing, everything

Impersonal pronouns:

It is the only impersonal pronoun in English. It can be used as a subject to an impersonal verb:

- It is snowing in Vienna.
- It is Friday today.
- "What is the time now?" "It is 4 o'clock."

It is used to represent a noun in the neuter gender:

- I am taking the DVD back to the shop because it doesn't work.

It can be used to represent a young baby of either sex:

- The baby is crying. It must be hungry.

It can also be used for animals:

- I love my cat. It knows when I am sad.

Extracts from: **English Grammar in Use**, Raymond Murphy, 2012, Cambridge/Klett, **Eats, shoots & leaves**, Lynne Truss, 2003. Profile books ltd and **Correct English**, J.E. Metcalfe and C. Astel, Clarion books.

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