

# Pronouns

Pronouns are words that are used to substitute a noun (pro-noun: for a noun). This can be done to avoid repetition or when the name or proper noun is not known. In general



pronouns are classified in the sense of the function of words rather than in the sentence in the sense of a group of ideas that are being indicated or in any other sense. One could say that personal pronoun is the exception to this.

## Personal Pronouns

Personal pronouns substitute names of persons or things. Possessive pronouns are used to substitute a noun, indicating to whom or what the referred to item belongs. Possessive adjectives indicate to whom the mentioned thing belongs. They are normally placed between an article and a noun.

	Personal Pronouns		Possessive	
	Subject form	Object form	Pronoun	Adjective
<b><i>Singular</i></b>				
1 <sup>st</sup>	I	me	mine	my
2 <sup>nd</sup>	you	you	yours	your
3 <sup>rd</sup>	he ♂	him	his	his
	she ♀	her	hers	her
	it ⊗	it	-	(its)
<b><i>Plural</i></b>				
1 <sup>st</sup>	we	us	ours	our
2 <sup>nd</sup>	you	you	yours	your
3 <sup>rd</sup>	they	them	theirs	their

Examples:

*He* likes *me*, but *I* don't like *him*.

*She* doesn't like *him*, but *she* likes *his* brother.

*I*'ve lost *my* pen. Do you know where *it* is?

*I*'ve lost *my* daughter. Do you know where *she* is?  
Oh, there *she* is, ... *I*'ve found *her*.

*We* have bought a new tv. Next week *they* are going to bring *it* to *us*.  
*Our* old tv was bad.

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Is this *your* book?  
Yes, it is *mine*.



## Demonstratives

Demonstrative pronouns are members of the bigger group Demonstratives. They are words used to point

something out

separate from the rest.

	<i>singular</i>	<i>plural</i>
<i>here</i>	this	these
<i>there</i>	that	those

## Interrogative Pronouns

Interrogative pronouns (question words) are used to ask for (unknown) things.

who  
what  
which  
why  
where  
when  
how

They ask for the following information.

who asks for a person (object form: whom),  
what asks for a thing (or an idea or action),  
which asks for a thing, when the choice is limited,  
why asks for a reason, motive, purpose,  
where asks for a place,  
when asks for a time,  
how asks for a manner, a way, a mode.

Examples:

Who is that over there?

It's jim.

Whom did they ask?

They asked the mayor.

What are you looking for?

I'm looking for my keys.

What is the reason for this meeting?

We have to organize the activities for next weeks events.

Which sweater do you want, the red the blue or the green one?

I prefer the green one.

Why are you going down town?

There is a sale, so, I want to see if I can find some good bargains.

Where are you going?

We're going to the cinema.

When are you leaving?

At ten we're leaving.

How are you going?

We are going in my friend's car.

The logo for Enfos, featuring the word "Enfos" in a light green, sans-serif font.

## Relative pronouns

Relative pronouns refer to something that has been mentioned or will be mentioned. Personal and interrogative pronouns are often used as relative pronouns but other pronouns can be used in this function too.

Exercise:

To what do the relative pronouns in the following examples refer?

You have to rinse the pan with water and heat before you put in the milk.

**That's** how you prevent the milk from sticking to the bottom.

Who found the solution?

**It** was Jill.

I am going to tell you exactly **that** what you have to do. Go to the office next door, ask the secretary to fill out the d55-form and after **it** is filled out, you bring **it** here.

It was Albert Einstein **who** developed general theory of relativity.



## Reflexive Pronoun

When talking about actions done by and to the same person or thing, a **reflexive pronoun** can be used. They have the suffix **-self** or **-selves**. Think of *I see the reflection of myself in the mirror.*

myself  
yourself  
himself  
herself  
itself  
ourselves  
yourselves  
themselves

## Any Person in General

To refer to any single person in general, the word **one** can be used as a personal pronoun. Some consider this dated and prefer to use the second person pronoun **you**. Others prefer **one** because it avoids ambiguity or because it sounds more formal.

Examples:

If **you** go to the South Pole, **you** have to be prepared for the extreme cold and for being isolated from the rest of the world.

If **one** goes to the South Pole, **one** has to be prepared for the extreme cold and for being isolated from the rest of the world.

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