

The Pronoun

You talk with people every day in school, at work, in the community, and at home. When you do, you often use the person's name. You talk about the things you do and the thoughts you have.

Whenever you speak or write, you use nouns to name the person or thing you are telling about. When you want to refer to that person or thing again, you can repeat the noun, or you can use a pronoun. A pronoun is a word used in place of a noun.

In Chapter 2, you will learn how to recognize and use pronouns. Each lesson in the chapter focuses on different types of pronouns and their correct use in writing and speaking.

Goals for Learning

- ▶ To identify pronouns in sentences
- ▶ To identify the type of pronoun such as personal, indefinite, relative, and demonstrative
- ▶ To identify correct usage of pronouns in sentences

Pronoun

A part of speech that takes the place of a noun.

A **pronoun** is a word that replaces a noun. Without pronouns, you would have to repeat the same nouns over and over again.

EXAMPLE

Susan said that Susan was going to call Susan's mother.

Susan said that **she** was going to call **her** mother.

Antecedent

The noun that a pronoun replaces.

Every pronoun has an **antecedent**. The antecedent is the noun to which the pronoun refers. The pronoun must agree with the antecedent in number and gender.

EXAMPLE

Ellis is a senior.

He is on the track team.

(Ellis is the antecedent for the pronoun **he**.)

Personal pronoun

A pronoun that takes the place of a noun and that refers to a person or object.

Personal pronouns distinguish among the speaker, the person spoken to, and the person or thing spoken about.

A first person pronoun refers to the speaker.

EXAMPLE

I am late.

A second person pronoun refers to the person spoken to.

EXAMPLE

You are late.

A third person pronoun refers to the person or thing spoken about.

EXAMPLE

He is late.

Personal pronouns express number. They can be singular or plural.

EXAMPLES

Singular (one)

I am late.

She is leaving.

Plural (more than one)

We are late.

They are leaving.

Personal pronouns express gender. The three genders are *masculine* (male), *feminine* (female), and *neuter* (those that are neither masculine nor feminine).

EXAMPLES

Masculine: He is tall.

Feminine: She is my friend.

Neuter: It is a notebook.

Nominative pronoun

A pronoun used as the subject of a sentence.

Personal pronouns express case. The case reflects the way the pronoun is used in a sentence.

Objective pronoun

A pronoun used as the object of a sentence.

A pronoun may be used in the **nominative** case as the subject of the sentence, in the **objective** case as an object in the sentence, or in the **possessive** case to show ownership.

EXAMPLES

Nominative: He is in my Spanish class. (subject)

Objective: I gave it to him. (object of the preposition to)

Possessive: That book is hers.

Possessive pronoun

A pronoun that shows ownership or relationship.

Personal Pronouns			
	Nominative	Objective	Possessive
Singular			
First person	I	me	my, mine
Second person	you	you	your, yours
Third person	he, she it	him, her it	his, her, hers its
Plural			
First person	we	us	our, ours
Second person	you	you	your, yours
Third person	they	them	their, theirs

Activity A Write a pronoun for each numbered item on your paper. Use the chart above for help.

Examples first person, singular, nominative — **I**
 second person, plural, possessive — **your, yours**
 third person, singular, objective, masculine — **him**

- 1) third person, plural, nominative
- 2) third person, singular, objective, neuter
- 3) first person, plural, possessive
- 4) second person, singular, objective
- 5) third person, plural, possessive
- 6) first person, singular, objective
- 7) second person, singular, possessive
- 8) second person, plural, nominative

Activity B Rewrite each of these sentences on your paper.
Replace the words in bold with a pronoun.

Example I saw **Mary** yesterday.
I saw **her** yesterday.

- 1) I have a **hammer and a saw**.
- 2) **The gloves** are lost.
- 3) **An airplane** is flying overhead.
- 4) I wrote a letter to **George**.
- 5) **Anita's** house is in the country.
- 6) "That book is **Katie's**," Katie said.
- 7) "That is **Laura and Katie's** room," Katie said.
- 8) "**Katie** is late," Laura said.
- 9) **Lian and I** are going to the dance.

Activity C Rewrite each of these sentences on your paper.
Replace the words in bold with a pronoun.

Example At the end of the first day of school, **Gina** was tired.
At the end of the first day of school, **she** was tired.

- 1) **Gina and Karen** waited for the school bus.
- 2) "The teacher gave **Gina** homework," Gina said.
- 3) Gina decided to do **homework** as soon as she got home.
- 4) **Gina's** homework was not difficult.
- 5) The teacher told **Gina** to write a paragraph in Spanish.
- 6) "What is the paragraph about?" **Karen** asked.
- 7) "What I did on **Gina's** vacation, of course!" Gina laughed.

Activity D Write the pronoun or pronouns in each of these sentences on your paper. Beside each pronoun, write its antecedent.

Example Finally **Corey and Beth** got on **their** bus.
their (*personal pronoun*) **Corey and Beth** (*antecedent*)

- 1) Jennifer had her Spanish book.
- 2) She and Michelle talked all the way home.
- 3) They laughed about a joke Luís had told them.
- 4) “The kids at school took a vote. They decided Luís tells the best jokes,” Jennifer said.
- 5) “He is a funny person!” Michelle agreed.
- 6) “I am hungry,” Jennifer said.
- 7) “You can stop by my house,” Michelle said. “We can fix a hamburger.”
- 8) “A hamburger sounds very good to me,” Jennifer said.
- 9) “I think your mother left you a note,” Jennifer said.
- 10) Michelle asked, “What does it say?”
- 11) “She wants you to pick up your brother from day care,” Jennifer replied.
- 12) “We can eat our hamburgers first. Then I will go get him,” Michelle said.

- Self pronoun

A pronoun that ends with *-self* and indicates action done to or by another pronoun or a noun in the sentence. *-Self* pronouns are also used to show emphasis.

-Self pronouns refer to another pronoun or a noun. They always come after the noun or pronoun to which they refer. Sometimes *-self* pronouns are used to show emphasis.

EXAMPLES

I hurt **myself**. (indicates action done to the pronoun *I*)

The child played by **herself**. (indicates action done by the noun *child*)

Luis ate the whole pie **himself**. (shows emphasis)

-Self Pronouns		
	Singular	Plural
First person	myself	ourselves
Second person	yourself	yourselves
Third person	himself, herself, itself	themselves

Activity E Write the *-self* pronouns in these sentences on your paper. Beside each *-self* pronoun, write *singular* or *plural*.

Example Janet studied her math by herself.
herself—singular

- 1) The glass fell off the shelf by itself.
- 2) Ema and Janet cleaned the kitchen themselves.
- 3) I myself prefer spicy food.
- 4) We cooked dinner by ourselves.
- 5) Try to answer the question by yourself.
- 6) The baby sat up by himself.
- 7) Clean up this mess by yourselves.
- 8) He went to the movies by himself.
- 9) She whispered something to herself.

Lesson 1 Review

Part A Write the personal pronouns in these sentences on your paper. Beside each personal pronoun, write its antecedent.

- 1) The first day of school was over. It had been very pleasant.
- 2) The principal gave his usual welcome-back speech.
- 3) Katie enjoyed her new classes.
- 4) Pete was humming to himself in the halls.
- 5) The students enjoyed seeing their old friends.
- 6) Lilly and Pete are in the same math class. They plan to study together.
- 7) Rosa walked home by herself after school.

Part B Some of the pronouns in these sentences are in bold. Write the bold pronoun on your paper. Beside each pronoun, write the noun or nouns that the pronoun has replaced.

- 1) Laura and Katie are both seniors. **They** are old friends.
- 2) Ms. Turner is the homeroom teacher. **She** also teaches science.
- 3) James Melcher is in the class. Katie has known **him** for years.
- 4) “Can I have your phone number?” James asked Katie. “Here **it** is,” Katie said.
- 5) “Please call **me** this evening,” Katie said.
- 6) She wondered if **he** would call.