



CHAPTER

3

Using Pronouns in Sentences

When we speak or write, we identify the person or thing that we are talking about. The word we use to name the person or thing is a noun. After we say or write the noun, we replace the name with a pronoun.

The photograph on the opposite page shows a school of Pacific double-saddle butterfly fish. When writing or talking about this school of fish, we might describe them using both nouns and pronouns. For example: This photograph shows a large school of Pacific double-saddle butterfly fish. *They* all have yellow, black, and white stripes. The word *they* is a pronoun.

In Chapter 3, you will learn about pronouns and how to use them in sentences.

Goals for Learning

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

Pronoun

A word that replaces a noun

A **pronoun** is a word that replaces a noun.

EXAMPLE

Armando is a senior. **He** writes for the school newspaper. **His** column appears in every issue.

The pronoun *he* replaces the proper noun *Armando*. The pronoun *his* replaces the possessive noun *Armando's*. The noun that the pronoun replaces is called the **antecedent**.

Antecedent

The noun that a pronoun replaces

Activity A Write each underlined pronoun on your paper. Then write the antecedent that the pronoun has replaced.

Example Emily is a student. She is in the band.
Pronoun—she Antecedent—Emily

Armando and Joe are both seniors. They are friends.
Mrs. Benson is one of their teachers. She teaches journalism.
Brittany Francis is also in the class. Joe has known her for years. They were in the same elementary school.

Why are pronouns important? Without pronouns, we would have to repeat the same nouns over and over again.

EXAMPLE

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

Nathan said that **he** was going to call **his** mother.

The word *antecedent* comes from two Latin words that mean "to go before or in front." The antecedent of a pronoun usually comes before or in front of the pronoun.

Activity B List the underlined words on your paper. Next to each noun, write a pronoun that could replace it.

Armando looked for Armando's new class.
Armando had signed up for a journalism class. Armando walked up to the second floor. In the class, Armando found an old friend. Armando and Armando's friend had both signed up for the class.

Find the seven pronouns in the paragraph. List them in order on your paper. Write the antecedent next to each one. Remember that the antecedent is the noun that the pronoun replaces.

- 1) Armando is on the soccer team. He asked Angela and Nathan to come to his game on Tuesday. They both came and cheered loudly for Armando. He scored one goal. After the game, they all went to Tony's to celebrate. Nathan was glad he had come to the game. Angela said she had a good time too.

Write each underlined pronoun on your paper. Then write the antecedent next to each one.

- 2) Emily and Angela like school, and they enjoy history class.
- 3) Emily was glad that she had studied for the test.
- 4) Angela and I studied together, so we did well on the test.
- 5) Since Mr. Thomas just gave a test, he will start a new unit next week.

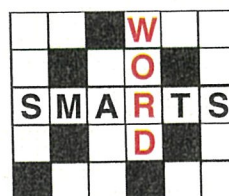
Vocabulary Builder

Root Words

The root word *cast* first appeared in the 13th century. The word means "to make something move or to send something forth."

Here are four words that contain the root word *cast*: *forecast*, *newscast*, *outcast*, *telecast*. Write their meanings on your paper. Then check the accuracy of your meanings with the definitions in a dictionary.

Find three other words that contain the root word *cast*. Write the meanings of the words on your paper. Use a dictionary to check your meanings.



Personal pronoun

A pronoun that refers to a person or a thing

Personal pronouns refer to people or things. They refer to the person who is speaking and to the person who is spoken to. They also refer to the person or thing that is being talked about.

A **first-person pronoun** refers to the person who is speaking.

First-person pronoun

A pronoun that refers to the person who is speaking

EXAMPLE

I am ready.

A **second-person pronoun** refers to the person you are speaking to.

EXAMPLE

You are ready.

Second-person pronoun

A pronoun that refers to the person who is being spoken to

A **third-person pronoun** refers to the person or thing you are talking about.

EXAMPLE

He is ready. **She** is ready. **It** is ready.

Third-person pronoun

A pronoun that refers to the person or thing that is being talked about

Personal pronouns can be singular or plural. A singular pronoun refers to one person or thing. A plural pronoun refers to more than one person or thing.

EXAMPLE

Singular	I am happy.	She is happy.
Plural	We are happy.	They are happy.

We use personal pronouns in different ways in a sentence.

As the **subject** of a sentence

As the **object** of a verb or preposition

As a **possessive** that shows ownership

Some pronouns are masculine, or male (*he, his, him*). Some pronouns are feminine, or female (*she, her, hers*). Some pronouns are neuter, or neither masculine nor feminine (*it, its*).

Depending on how it is used in a sentence, a personal pronoun may change its form.

EXAMPLE

He is in my math class. *He* is the subject of the sentence.

Emily knows **him**. *Him* is the object of the verb.

That is **his** desk. *His* is possessive.

Here is a chart showing all of the personal pronouns.

Personal Pronouns			
	Subject	Object	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 Identify these pronouns. Write them on your paper. Use the chart above.

- 1) third person, plural, subject
- 2) second person, singular, object
- 3) second person, plural, subject
- 4) third person, singular, object
- 5) first person, plural, object

Possessive pronouns replace possessive nouns. The possessive noun is the antecedent of the possessive pronoun. Possessive pronouns never have an apostrophe.

EXAMPLE

Armando's baseball cap is blue and white.
His baseball cap is blue and white.
The antecedent of *his* is *Armando's*.

John brought his own baseball bat to the game.
"Where is **yours**?" he asked Armando.
The antecedent of *yours* is *Armando's bat*.

Activity B On your paper, make a list of the personal pronouns in these sentences. Next to each pronoun, write its antecedent.

1) Mrs. Benson says, "Students, please listen to me."

2) Emily takes good care of her clarinet.

3) Angela tells the swim coach, "I want to swim in the Olympics someday."

4) Mr. Thomas asks Joe, "Is this book yours?"

5) Armando left a sketchbook at practice, but it was still there when he went back.

Activity C Write the sentences on your paper. Use a pronoun to replace the underlined word or words.

Example

Emily works at the store. Emily enjoys her job.
Emily works at the store. She enjoys her job.

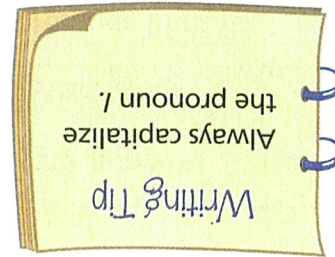
1) Angela hangs up Angela's bathing suit to dry.

2) Mrs. Young says to Nathan, "Nathan should get ready for school."

3) The coach asks Armando, "Is this Armando's soccer ball?"

4) Emily asks Mr. Jackson, "Would you like Meg and me to pass out the sheet music?"

5) Meg is in the band. Meg plays the saxophone.



Compound personal pronoun

A pronoun made by combining a singular personal pronoun and -self or a plural personal pronoun and -selves

We make **compound personal pronouns** by adding *-self* to singular personal pronouns and *-selves* to plural personal pronouns.

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

Activity D On your paper, write the *-self* pronouns in these sentences. Next to each one, write *singular* or *plural*.

- 1) Angela's boss at the YMCA makes the work schedule himself.
- 2) As he always says, "Someone has to be there because the pool doesn't open itself."
- 3) Angela's students push themselves to swim better and faster.
- 4) The students say, "If we practice by ourselves, maybe we can be as good as Angela!"
- 5) When they say that, Angela feels proud of herself.

Write the antecedent of each underlined pronoun.

- 1) “I am playing tennis for a USTA team,” said Julie.
- 2) Julie said, “The United States Tennis Association has ranked me as a 3.5.”
- 3) “The USTA has a ranking system so that I can compete with people at my level,” Julie added.
- 4) “It is a very good system.”
- 5) “John has a 3.5 ranking too. We sometimes play doubles against other pairs,” said Julie.

Write the personal pronouns in these sentences on your paper.

Write the antecedent next to each pronoun.

- 6) Armando saved his allowance for three months.
- 7) Armando and Nathan went to the sports store. They wanted to look at tennis rackets.
- 8) The manager greeted them. Armando asked, “Do you have any tennis rackets?”
- 9) “This racket is my favorite,” said the manager. “Would you like to try it?”
- 10) Armando swung the racket and said, “It is just like my father’s!”
- 11) Nathan asked Armando, “Did you buy your last racket too?”
- 12) “No,” said Armando, “my parents bought the racket for me.”
- 13) Armando asked Nathan, “Do you like this racket?”
- 14) Armando paid for the racket with his own money.
- 15) Nathan looked at Armando’s new racket and said, “It looks ready to go!”