

Pronouns

A pronoun is used in place of a noun or nouns. Common pronouns include *he, her, him, I, it, me, she, them, they, us, and we*. Here are some examples:

INSTEAD OF: Luma is a good athlete.

She is a good athlete. (The pronoun *she* replaces *Luma*.)

INSTEAD OF: The beans and tomatoes are fresh-picked.

They are fresh-picked. (The pronoun *they* replaces *the beans and tomatoes*.)

Often a pronoun takes the place of a particular noun. This noun is known as the antecedent. A pronoun "refers to," or directs your thoughts toward, its antecedent.

Let's call **Luma** and ask **her** to join the team. (*Her* is a pronoun; *Luma* is its antecedent.)

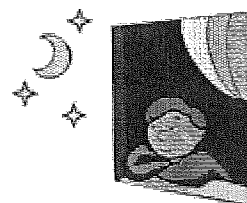
To find a pronoun's antecedent, ask yourself what that pronoun refers to. What does *her* refer to in the sentence above—that is, who is the *her*? The *her* in the sentence is Luma; therefore, *Luma* is the antecedent.

Subjective Pronouns

A subjective pronoun acts as the subject of a sentence—it performs the action of the verb. The subjective pronouns are *he, I, it, she, they, we, and you*.

He spends ages looking out the window.

After lunch, **she** and **I** went to the planetarium.



Objective Pronouns

An objective pronoun acts as the object of a sentence—it receives the action of the verb. The objective pronouns are *her, him, it, me, them, us, and you*.

Cousin Eldred gave **me** a trombone.

Take a picture of **him**, not **us**!

Possessive Pronouns

A possessive pronoun tells you who owns something. The possessive pronouns are *hers, his, its, mine, ours, theirs, and yours*.

The red basket is **mine**.

Yours is on the coffee table.

Demonstrative Pronouns

A demonstrative pronoun points out a noun. The demonstrative pronouns are *that*, *these*, *this*, and *those*.

That is a good idea.

These are hilarious cartoons.

A demonstrative pronoun may look like a demonstrative adjective, but it is used differently in a sentence: it acts as a pronoun, taking the place of a noun.

Interrogative Pronouns

An interrogative pronoun is used in a question. It helps to ask about something. The interrogative pronouns are *what*, *which*, *who*, *whom*, and compound words ending in "ever," such as *whatever*, *whichever*, *whoever*, and *whomever*.

What on earth is that?

Who ate the last Fig Newton?

An interrogative pronoun may look like an interrogative adjective, but it is used differently in a sentence: it acts as a pronoun, taking the place of a noun.

Indefinite Pronouns

An indefinite pronoun refers to an indefinite, or general, person or thing. Indefinite pronouns include *all*, *any*, *both*, *each*, *everyone*, *few*, *many*, *neither*, *none*, *nothing*, *several*, *some*, and *somebody*.

Something smells good.

Many like salsa with their chips.

An indefinite pronoun may look like an indefinite adjective, but it is used differently in a sentence: it acts as a pronoun, taking the place of a noun.

Relative Pronouns

A relative pronoun introduces a clause, or part of a sentence, that describes a noun. The relative pronouns are *that*, *which*, *who*, and *whom*.

You should bring the book **that** you love most.

That introduces "you love most," which describes the book.

Hector is a photographer **who** does great work.

Who introduces "does great work," which describes Hector.

Reflexive Pronouns

A reflexive pronoun refers back to the subject of a sentence. The reflexive pronouns are *herself*, *himself*, *itself*, *myself*, *ourselves*, *themselves*, and *yourselves*. Each of these words can also act as an intensive pronoun (see below).

I learned a lot about **myself** at summer camp. (*Myself* refers back to *I*.)

They should divide the berries among **themselves**. (*Themselves* refers back to *they*.)

Intensive Pronouns

An intensive pronoun emphasizes its antecedent (the noun that comes before it). The intensive pronouns are *herself*, *himself*, *itself*, *myself*, *ourselves*, *themselves*, and *yourselves*. Each of these words can also act as a reflexive pronoun (see above).

I **myself** don't like eggs.

The queen **herself** visited our class.