

What is a Pronoun?

A **pronoun** can replace a noun or another pronoun. You use pronouns like "he," "which," "none," and "you" to make your sentences streamlined and less repetitive. Pronouns seem easy to use, but they are perhaps the most difficult words to use clearly and effectively.

Grammarians classify pronouns into several types. Let's go through each kind.

Personal Pronouns

A **personal pronoun** refers to a specific person or thing. Here they are:

I you she he it we you they
me you her him it us you them.

There are two types of these personal pronouns – subjective and objective:

Subjective Personal Pronouns:

A **subjective personal pronoun** indicates that the pronoun is acting as the subject of the sentence. The subjective personal pronouns are:

I you she he it we you they

Objective Personal Pronouns:

An **objective personal pronoun** indicates that the pronoun is acting as an object in a sentence. The objective personal pronouns are:

me you her him it us you them.

Possessive Personal Pronouns

The **possessive personal pronouns** are:

Mine yours hers his its ours theirs.

Demonstrative Pronouns

A **demonstrative pronoun** points toward something without naming the noun.

The **demonstrative pronouns** are:

This that these those

“**This** is really good.” (Be sure people know what “**this**” is.)

Interrogative Pronouns

An **interrogative pronoun** is used to ask questions.

The interrogative pronouns are:

Who whom which what whoever whichever whatever

“**Who** shot President Lincoln.”

Relative Pronouns

The relative pronouns are:

Who whom that which

“The guy **who** made that movie was not very good at moviemaking.”

Indefinite Pronouns

An **indefinite pronoun** is a pronoun referring to an identifiable but not specified person or thing. An indefinite pronoun conveys the idea of all, any, none, or some.

The most common indefinite pronouns are:

All any anyone anything each everyone everything
few many none one some somebody someone.

Reflexive Pronouns

You can use a **reflexive pronoun** to refer back to the subject of the clause or sentence.

“I picked it up myself.”

The reflexive pronouns are:

Myself yourself himself itself ourselves themselves

Intensive Pronouns

An **intensive** pronoun looks like a reflexive pronoun, but it's actually used to emphasize the noun that comes before it.

I **myself** believe that aliens should abduct my sister.

The President **himself** said that he would lower taxes.

They **themselves** promised to come to the party.