

# Pronouns

Pronouns are used in place of nouns. They are used to avoid repetition.

There are different types of pronoun:

- **Personal (Subject) Pronouns:** Singular: I, you, he, she, it.

Plural: we, you, they.

- **Possessive Pronoun:** show something belongs to someone:

**I/Me?** If in doubt whether *I* or *me* should be used, take away the other name and it becomes clear, e.g.:

- Jim took Sam and *me* for a drink.
- Jane and *I* went for pizza.

- It's *his*!
- No it's not – it's *hers*!
- I thought it was *mine*.
- Can it be *yours*?

- **Relative Pronoun:** relate one part of a sentence to another:

- that,
- which
- who
- whom
- whose
- what

**WHO/WHOM?** *Who* is used as the subject and *whom* the object:

- We (subject) caught the man (object) *whom* we had been chasing.
- We (object) searched for the man (subject) *who* was missing.

- **Interrogative Pronoun:** used to ask a question:

**Do not** confuse the interrogative pronoun *whose* with the abbreviation of *who is*:

- *Whose* shoe is this?
- *Who's* cooking dinner?

- *Who* did that?
- *Whose* books are these?
- *Which* of you read the book?
- *What* did you say?

- **Demonstrative Pronoun:** used to specify: this, that, these, those...
  - *This* is old; *that* is new. (singular)
  - *These* are old; *those* are new. (plural)

**Do not** confuse a demonstrative pronoun with a demonstrative adjective:

- *This* is ugly = demonstrative pronoun
- *This* jacket is ugly = demonstrative adjective

- **Reflexive Pronouns:** have two uses:

Myself should **not** be used as a personal pronoun; it is **reflexive**:

**Incorrect:** John took Janet and *myself* dancing. *Myself* and Jack watched a film.

**Correct:** John took Janet and me dancing. Jack and I watched a film.

- To refer back to the subject:
  - He made it *himself*.
  - She helped *herself* to the *ice-cream*.
- To add emphasis:
  - I *myself* feel strongly...
  - Do you do it *yourself*?

- **Reciprocal Pronouns:** express a mutual relationship:
  - They called to *each* other.
  - They found *one another*.
- **Indefinite Pronouns:** are used to generalise:
  - *Each, any, anyone, everyone, no-one, someone, some, anything, something*(because these are singular they take a singular verb – is/has/was/were/will...).
  - *Many, few, several, both* (because these are plural they take a plural verb – are/were/will...)
  - *Neither, nor, either, or*.

If both *subjects* are singular, the verb is singular:

- *Either* the cat *or* dog is in the kitchen.

If one or both subjects are plural, the verb is plural:

- *Neither* the cat *nor* the dogs are in the kitchen.