

BHARAT SCHOOL OF BANKING

PRONOUN

What is a Pronoun?

In grammar, a pronoun is defined as a word or phrase that may be substituted for a noun or noun phrase, which once replaced, is known as the pronoun's antecedent. How is this possible? In a nutshell, it's because pronouns can do everything that nouns can do. A pronoun can act as a subject, direct object, indirect object, object of the preposition, and more.

Without pronouns, we'd have to keep on repeating nouns, and that would make our speech and writing repetitive, not to mention cumbersome. Most pronouns are very short words.

Examples include:

He She They It We Who

As mentioned, pronouns are usually used to replace nouns, however they can also stand in for certain adverbs, adjectives, and other pronouns. Anytime you want to talk about a person, animal, place or thing, you can use pronouns to make your speech or writing flow better.

Types of Pronouns

Pronouns can be divided into numerous categories including:

Indefinite pronouns – those referring to one or more unspecified objects, beings, or places

Personal pronouns – those associated with a certain person, thing, or group; all except you have distinct forms that indicate singular or plural number

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Reflexive pronouns – those preceded by the adverb, adjective, pronoun, or noun to which they refer, and ending in –self or –selves

Demonstrative pronouns – those used to point to something specific within a sentence

Possessive pronouns – those designating possession or ownership

Relative pronouns – those which refer to nouns mentioned previously, acting to introduce an adjective (relative) clause

Interrogative pronouns – those which introduce a question

Reciprocal pronouns – those expressing mutual actions or relationship; i.e. one another

Intensive pronouns – those ending in –self or –selves and that serve to emphasize their antecedents

Pronoun Rules

There are a few important rules for using pronouns. As you read through these rules and the examples in the next section, notice how the pronoun rules are followed. Soon you'll see that pronouns are easy to work with.

Subject pronouns may be used to begin sentences.

For example: We did a great job.

Subject pronouns may also be used to rename the subject.

For example: It was she who decided we should go to Hawaii.

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Indefinite pronouns don't have antecedents. They are capable of standing on their own. For example: No one likes the sound of fingernails on a chalkboard.

Object pronouns are used as direct objects, indirect objects, and objects of prepositions. These include: you, me, him, her, us, them, and it. For example: David talked to her about the mistake.

Possessive pronouns show ownership. They do not need apostrophes. For example: The cat washed its whiskers.

Examples of Pronouns

We are going on vacation.

Don't tell **me** that **you** can't go with **us**.

Anybody who says **it** won't be fun has no clue what **they** are talking about.

These are terribly steep stairs.

We ran into each other at the mall.

I'm not sure which is worse: rain or snow.

It is one of the nicest Italian restaurants in town.

Richard stared at **himself** in the mirror.

The laundry isn't going to do **itself**.

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Someone spilled orange juice all over the countertop!

Pronoun Exercises

The following exercises will help you gain greater understanding about how pronouns work. Choose the best answer to complete each sentence.

1. This is _____ speaking.
 - John
 - He
 - He john
 - Am
2. Greg is as smart as _____ is.
 - I
 - me
 - she
 - we
3. The dog chewed on _____ favorite toy.
 - it's
 - it is
 - its'
 - its
4. It could have been _____ .
 - Jerry
 - anyone
 - better
 - more difficult

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5. Terry is taller than _____ am.

- I
- me
- she
- we

Answers

B. This is he speaking.

C. Greg is as smart as she is.

D. The dog chewed on its favorite toy.

B. It could have been anyone.

A. Terry is taller than I am.

List of Pronouns

As you read through this list of pronouns, remember that each one of these pronouns is a word that can be used to take the place of a noun. Think about ways to use the pronouns on this list in sentences, as this will increase your understanding.

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Personal Pronouns These take the place of common and proper nouns .	Singular	Plural
First Person: The person or people speaking or writing	I me	we us
Second Person: The person or people being spoken or written to	you (Learn the story of you.)	you
Third Person: The person, people, or things being spoken or written about	she, her he, him it	they them

Are you wondering about *they* as a singular pronoun? You might like this video.

Relative Pronouns These relate subordinate adjective clauses to the rest of the sentence.	that, which, who, whom, whose, whichever, whoever, whomever
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Demonstrative Pronouns These represent a thing or things.	Singular	Plural
Refers to things that are nearby	this	these
Refers to things that are far away	that	those

	<u>Indefinite Pronouns</u> These refer to something that is unspecified.
Singular	anybody, anyone, anything, each, either, everybody, everyone, everything, neither, nobody, no one, nothing, one, somebody, someone, something
Plural	both, few, many, several
Singular or Plural	all, any, most, none, some

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<u>Reflexive Pronouns</u> These end in <i>-self</i> or <i>-selves</i> .	Singular	Plural
First Person: The person or people speaking or writing	myself (Do you <u>misuse myself</u> ?)	ourselves
Second Person: The person or people being spoken or written to	yourself	yourselves
Third Person: The person, people, or things being spoken or written about	himself, herself, itself	themselves

Common errors on Pronoun and how to avoid them.

1. Neither my brother nor me have been to Paris.

Neither my brother nor **I** have been to Paris.

2. The manager offered Jane and I a good job.

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The manager offered Jane and **me** a good job.

3. He thinks that us two can win the doubles match.

He thinks that **we** two can win the doubles match.

4. Between you and I there are few secrets.

Between you and **me** there are few secrets.

5. Both him and I are going for a walk.

Both **he** and I are going for a walk.

6. The boy who works hard he will win.

The boy who works hard will win.

This sentence has two clauses '*the boy will win*' and '*who works hard*' and each clause has its own subject. There is no need to use a pronoun when the noun it stands for is already present in the clause.

7. Whoever does best he will get a prize.

Whoever does best will get a prize.

8. Who painted this picture? Myself

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Who painted this picture? I (myself)

An **emphatic pronoun** (e.g. myself, himself, themselves, yourself) cannot be used as the subject of a sentence.

9. I and he are brothers.

He and I are brothers.

10. I with my friends watched the show.

I watched the show with my friends.

When a personal pronoun is used as subject it should not be separated from its verb if possible.

11. He himself hurt due to his carelessness.

He hurt himself due to his carelessness.

12. He is taller than me.

He is taller than I (am).

The pronoun following **than** should be in the same case as the pronoun preceding it. Note that this rule is no longer strictly followed and the sentence 'He is taller than me' is considered correct.

13. None of us have seen him.

None of us has seen him.

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The words **every, each, none** etc., are singular in number and should be followed by singular verbs.

14. People starve when he has no money.

People starve when they have no money.

The noun **people** is plural in number. The pronoun used instead of a plural noun should be plural in number.

15. My car is better than my friend.

My car is better than that of my friend.

In a comparative sentence we must be careful to compare the same part of two things. **That of, these of and those of** are necessary words.

16. The size of the shoe should be the same as this shoe.

The size of the shoe should be the same as that of this shoe.

17. His teaching was like Buddha.

His teaching was like that of Buddha.

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18. None but I turned up.

None but me turned up.

When **but** is used as a preposition it means except. The preposition **but** should be followed by a pronoun in the objective case.

19. They are all wrong but I.

They are all wrong but me.

20. Each of these girls sing well.

Each of these girls sings well.

The noun following **one of, none of, some of** and similar expressions must be plural in number, but the verb agrees in number with the subject of the sentence. In the sentence 'Each of these girls sings well', the real subject is **each** which is a singular word. It should therefore be followed by a singular verb.

Other singular words which often cause confusion are: **every, either, neither, none, much and person.**

21. None of my student attended the class today.

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None of my students attended the class today.

22. One of my servant has gone on leave.

One of my servants has gone on leave.

23. Some of my servants has gone on leave.

Some of my servants have gone on leave.

24. Some of my friends has decided to go on a picnic.

Some of my friends have decided to go on a picnic.

Some is a plural word. It must be followed by a plural verb.

25. Both did not come.

Neither came.

The expression **both...not** is not correct in standard English. Instead, we use **neither**.

26. One should respect his parents.

One should respect one's parents.

One, if used in a sentence, should be used throughout.

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27. Here is the bottle: please fill.

Here is the bottle: please fill it.

The verbs **fill, enjoy and got** are transitive. All transitive verbs must have an expressed object.

28. Have you a pen? I have not got.

Have you a pen? I have not got one.

29. He enjoyed at the party.

He enjoyed himself at the party.

30. I asked for his bicycle but he didn't lend me.

I asked for his bicycle but he didn't lend it to me.

Some transitive verbs like **give and lend** must have two expressed objects.

31. Please give your book.

Please give me/him/her/them your book.

32. The committee were divided in its opinion (Separate Individuals)

The committee were divided in their opinion

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33. The army has left their Head Quarters

The army has left its Head Quarters

34. The Collector and Magistrate have done his best.

The Collector and Magistrate has done his best.

35. But the collector and the Magistrate has done their best.

But the collector and the Magistrate have done their best.