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**PRONOUNS**

1. **What is a Pronoun ?**

Pronouns are small words that take the place of nouns or noun phrases. Pronouns are words like: *I, you, ours, ourselves*…etc. If we did not have pronouns, we would have to repeat a lot of nouns, i.e; we would have to say things like:

* Do you like **Mary**? Yes I like **Mary**. **Mary**is a very nice person.

With pronouns, we can say:

* Do you like **Mary**? Yes I like **her**. **She** is a very nice person.

1. **Types of Pronouns**
   1. **Personal Pronouns**

Though they are called Personal Pronouns, they do not refer only to people.

* Your lunch is ready; **it** is on the table.

We call them personal pronouns because they refer to grammatical persons.

Personal pronouns are of two types:

* + 1. **Subjective Personal Pronouns**

They are:

Singular Plural

First person **I we**

Second person **you you**

Third person **he, she, it they**

Thus **I** is referred to as the first person singular; **we** as the first person plural; **you** as the second person; **he**, **she**, **it** as the third person singular, and **they** as the third person plural.

They are said to be in the subjective case because they can replace a noun/ a noun phrase in the subject position, i.e; they can be used as the subject of the verb.

* *Lila* is a teacher. **She** likes her job.
* *Peter and Mary* are coming tomorrow.

→ **They** are coming tomorrow.

* **It** is raining.
* **We** are fortunate.
* **He** does not know what he wants.
* **You** are right.

**2.1.2** **Objective Personal Pronouns**

They are: **me**, **you**, **him**, **her**, **it**, **us**, and **them**. They replace a noun/noun phrase in the object position.

* My friend understands **me**.
* We met **him**.

An objective personal pronoun can function as:

**Direct Object:**

- When your son won the prize, we congratulated ***him***.

- When the letter arrived, we answered ***it*** immediately.

**Indirect Object:**

* I gave ***her*** a flower.
* We sent ***them*** a note.

**Object of Preposition:**

* The cake was made by ***us***.
* I bought a present for ***her***.
  1. **Possessive Pronouns**

Possessive pronouns show possession, i.e; that someone or something belongs to somebody. They are: ***mine***, ***yours***, ***his***, ***hers***, ***its***, **ours**, ***theirs***. They are always used independently, i.e; they are never used in front of a noun.

* This is your book. This is ***yours***.
* He did not bring his coat, but I brought ***mine***.
* Our teacher is relaxed, but ***theirs*** is short-tempered.
* Their marks are higher than ***ours***.

Note: ***My***, ***your***, ***his***, ***her***, ***its***, ***our***, and ***their*** are called ‘*Possessive Adjectives’*. They show possession by preceding a noun.

* **My** bicycle is new.
* **His** answer is correct.
* The tree has lost two of **its** branches.
* He is **our** friend.
* **Their** house is very nice.

Possessive Adjective Possessive Pronoun

**my mine**

**your yours**

**his his**

**her hers**

**its its**

**our ours**

**their theirs**

* 1. **Feflexive Pronouns**

They are: ***myself***, ***yourself***, ***himself***, ***herself***, ***itself***, ***ourselves***, ***yourselves***, ***themselves***. They are often used when the subject and the object of a sentence refer to the same person or thing.

Compare:

* **She** forced **her** to eat it. *She* and *her* refer to *different* people.
* **She** forced **herself** to eat it. *She* and *herself* refer to *the same* person.

Reflexive pronouns can also be used when it is desired to emphasize a personal pronoun.

* **I** ***myself*** saw what happened.
* Did **he** solve the problem **himself**?
* **She** did the work ***herself***.

There are verbs in English that must be followed by reflexive pronouns, such as *to absent*, *to avail*, *to pride*…etc.

* That student absented ***himself*** for three weeks.
* You (my students) have to avail ***yourselves*** of every opportunity to speak English.
* We pride ***ourselves*** on remaining calm in an emergency.

There are other verbs that are very commonly followed by reflexive pronouns but can also be followed by ordinary objects like: *to enjoy, to amuse, to blame, to cut, to hurt, to introduce*…etc.

* We enjoyed ***ourselves*** in the party.
* They amused ***themselves*** by telling jokes.
* Don’t blame ***yourself***.
* He cut ***himself*** while shaving.
* Did you hurt ***yourself***?
* When I first met her, I introduced ***myself***.

Reflexive pronouns are used in some conversational expressions like:

* Help ***yourself***!
* Make ***yourself*** at home!
* Don’t upset ***yourself***.
* Please ***yourself***!
* Behave ***yourself***!
  1. **Demonstrative Pronouns**

The words ***this***, ***that***, ***these***, and ***those*** are used to indicate specific people or things. When they are used independently, the words *this, that, these*, and *those* can be referred to as *Demonstrative Pronouns*.

* **This** is an apple pie.
* **That** is a good idea.
* **These** are my friends.
* **Those** are orange trees.

Note: *This*, *that*, *these*, and *those* can also be used immediately preceding a noun, in which case they are referred to as *Demonstrative Adjectives*.

* **This** pie is made of apples.
* **That** idea seems practical.
* **These** people are my friends.
* **Those** trees are orange trees.

***This*** and ***these*** are used to indicate people or things that are close to the speaker or writer.

***This*** takes a singular verb and is used when referring to a single person or thing.

* **This** is my *brother*.
* **This** *book* belongs to me.

***These*** takes a plural verb and is used when referring to more than one person or thing.

* **These** are my *brothers*.
* **These** *books* belong to me.

***That*** and ***those*** are used to indicate people or things that are at a distance from the speaker or writer.

***That*** takes a singular verb and is used when referring to a single person or thing.

* **That** is a *computer*.
* **That** *woman* is a professor.

***Those*** takes a plural verb and is used when referring to more than one person or thing.

* **Those** are *computers*.
* **Those** *women* are professors.
  1. **Interrogative Pronouns**

Interrogative pronouns are used when asking questions; they are: *who, whom*, *whose, which, what, why, when, how*.

Interrogative pronouns can be placed at the beginning of a sentence in order to ask a question; such questions are referred to as direct questions. In a direct question, when the interrogative pronoun is used as the subject of the verb, the verb follows the subject.

* **What** *has happened*?
* **Who** *has been invited*?

When the interrogative pronoun is the object of the verb, inverted word order must be used with the first auxiliary preceding the subject of the verb.

* **What** *do* you mean?
* **Which** *did* he choose?
* **What** *is* he doing?
  + 1. **WHO**

The pronoun ***who*** usually refers to people. *Who* changes its form depending on the case as shown below:

Subjective Case Objective Case Possessive Case

**Who**  **Whom**  **Whose**

1. **Who:** When who is the subject of the verb, the subjective case must be used.

* **Who** opened the door?
* **Who** will help me?

1. **Whom:** When the pronoun who is the object of the verb or the object of a preposition, the objective form whom must be used.

* **Whom** did you see at the party?
* To **whom** did you send the invitations?

1. **Whose:** The form whose can be used either as interrogative pronoun or interrogative adjective followed by a noun.

* **Whose** are these?
* **Whose** books are these?
  + 1. **WHICH**

**Which** as interrogative adjective or pronoun usually implies a choice of one or more things from a limited number of alternatives.

* **Which** is his sister.
* **Which** woman is his sister?
* **Which** children are ready on time?
  + 1. **WHAT**

**What** as an interrogative pronoun or adjective is usually used to ask for general information.

* **What** is that?
* **What** time is it?
  1. **Reciprocal Pronouns**

In English the following two phrases are used as Reciprocal Pronouns: **each other** and **one another**. They indicate that the individual members of a plural subject mutually act one on the other. eg. They helped *each other*.

**Each other →** for only two people or things

**One another** → for more than two people or things.

Compare:

* They amused ***each other*** by telling stories. The idea of two people telling stories is expressed + the importance of mutual interaction, i.e; the first person amused the second and the second amused the first by telling stories.
* They amused ***one another*** by telling stories. The idea of more than two people telling stories + the mutual interaction is expressed.
* They amused ***themselves*** by telling stories. The mutual interaction is not important.
  1. **Relative Pronouns**

A pronoun which is used to begin a subordinate clause can be referred to as a relative pronoun since it indicates the relationship of the subordinate clause to the rest of the sentence. In English the relative pronouns are: ***wh-words* (who, which,** etc.) or **that.** However, sometimes we omit the ***wh-word*** or**that** and use a **zero relative pronoun**:

* We went to a *restaurant (which/that)* **John had recommended to us.**

A subordinate clause that is introduced by a relative pronoun is often referred to as a relative clause; this gives more information about someone or something referred to in a main clause.

**Note:** Since they give more information about someone or something referred to in the main clause (= the antecedent), relative clauses have the grammatical function of adjectives. Therefore, they are referred to in many grammar books as **adjective clauses**.

**2.7.1.Types of Relative Clauses**

**2.7.1.1. Defining/ Restrictive Relative Clauses**

A defining relative clause gives essential information about the antecedent (the person or thing referred to in the main clause). In other words, it is used to specify *which* person or thing we mean, or which *type* of person or thing we mean:

* *The couple* **who live next to us** have sixteen grandchildren.
* People **who talk too much** annoy me intensely.

Without the relative clause the meaning of the sentence is different:

* The couple have sixteen grandchildren.
* People annoy me intensely.

Notice that we don't put a comma between the noun and a defining relative clause.

**2.7.1.2. Non-Defining/ Non –Restrictive Relative Clauses**

They merely contain parenthetic comments which usually describe but do not further define the antecedent. In other words, they give extra information about the antecedent.

* My younger brother, **who is painfully shy**, rarely speaks to anyone.

.Without the relative clause, the main information of the sentence remains the same.

* My younger brother rarely speaks to anyone.

Notice that we put a comma between the nounand a non-defining relative clause, and another comma at the end of this clause if it is not also the end of a sentence.

• We received *an offer of £80, 000* for the house**,** **which we accepted.**

**2.7.2. The Syntactic Functions of Relative Pronouns in Relative Clauses**

**That:** When used as a relative pronoun, ***that*** can refer to either people or things. ***That*** is used only in defining relative clauses; it can function as:

1. **Subject of the Relative Clause**

* Rockall is an uninhabited island**that** liesnorth west of mainland Scotland.
* We have a friend**that** playsthe piano.

Notice that the verb follows the relative pronoun.

1. **Object of the Relative Clause**

* The books **that** we bought are heavy.

Note: When it acts as the object of the relative clause, notice that there is a noun (or

pronoun) between the relative pronoun and the verb in the relative clause. In this case, we can use a **zero relative pronoun Ø.**

* He showed me the rocks**that/ Ø** hehad brought back from Australia.
* That's the man**that/ Ø** Imetat Allison's party.

**Which:** When used as a relative pronoun, ***which*** can refer only to things. It can be used in either defining or non-defining relative clauses.

* The suitcase **which** we purchased last week is very strong.
* The black sack, **which** was full of rocks, was heavy to lift.

***Which*** can act as:

1. **Subject of the Relative Clause**

* Where is the cheese **which** was in the fridge?

1. **Object of the Relative Clause**

Have you found the keys **which** you lost?

1. **Object of a Preposition in the Relative Clause**

The bed **in which** I slept last night wasn’t very comfortable. Or:

The bed **which/ Ø** I slept last night **in** wasn’t very comfortable.

**Who:** It refers only to people (not things). It can be used either in defining or non-defining relative clauses. ***Who*** is always used as the subject of the relative clause.

* The woman **who** lives next door is a doctor.
* One of the people arrested was Mary Arundel, **who** is a member of the local council.

**Whom:** It refers only to people. It can be used either in defining or non-defining relative clauses. ***Whom*** can act as:

1. **Object of the Relative Clause**

* The boy ***whom*** we visited is her nephew.
* Professor Johnson, **whom I** have long admired, is to visit the university next week.

1. **Object of a Preposition in a Relative Clause**

* The people **with whom** I work are very nice. (I work with them) or:

The people **whom/ Ø** I work **with** are very nice.

* I must thank the people **from whom** I got the present. Or

I must thank the people **whom**/ **Ø** I got the present **from**.

**Whose:** is a possessive relative pronoun. It is a determiner and so can only be used before a noun i.e., it functions as an adjective. We use *whose* in relative clauses instead of *his/her/ their*. It can be used either in defining or non-defining relative clauses. We use whose mostly for people.

* A widow is a woman **whose** husband is dead. (her husband is dead)
* What’s the name of the man **whose** car you borrowed? (you borrowed his car)
* Liz, **whose** car had broken down, was in a very bad mood.

Compare **who** and **whose**:

* I met a man who knows you. (he knows you)
* I met a man whose sister knows you. (his sister knows you)

**Using *Where* and *When* in Relative Clauses**

*Where* and *when* substitute for prepositional phrases and serve as the link between a relative clause and the noun that it modifies. In relative clauses, they are considered as relative pronouns (form) having the syntactic function of adverbs.

**Where**: it is used in a relative clause to talk about a place. It can be used either in defining or non-defining relative clauses.

* The restaurant **where** we had dinner was near the airport. Or:

The restaurant **in which** we had dinner was near the airport

* I recently went back to the town **where** I grew up. Or

I recently went back to the town **which** I grew up **in**.

* Jill has just been to Sweden, **where** her daughter lives.
* Jill has just been to Sweden, **which** her daughter lives **in**.

**When**: it is used in a relative clause to talk about time.

* Monday is the day **when** we will come. OR

The day **on which** we will come is Monday.

* 7:05 is the time **when** my plane arrives. OR

7:05 is the time **at which** my plane arrives.

* 1. **Indefinite pronouns**

They are compounds of ***some, any, every, no*** and ***body, thing, one, where***. They are called indefinite because we do not know exactly the person or thing we are referring to. These compounds are normally written in one word except **no one**.

Compounds with **some-** are generally used in affirmative or positive statements.

* **Someone** is sleeping in my bed.
* I saw **something** in the garden.
* I left my glasses **somewhere** in the house.

Compounds with **some-** are also used in questions, offers, or requests where we expect the answer **Yes**.

* Are you looking for ***someone***? (I am sure you are)
* Have you lost ***something***? (I am sure you are)
* Would you like ***something*** to drink? (I am sure you would)

Compounds with **any-** are generally used in interrogative and negative statements.

* Is there ***anything*** to eat?
* Did you go ***anywhere*** last night?
* He does not know ***anyone*** here.
* She did not go ***anywhere*** last night.

Note: Compounds with ***any-*** can be used in positive statements to mean no matter which, no matter who, no matter what, and no matter where.

* They can choose ***anything*** from the menu.
* You may invite ***anybody*** to dinner; I do not mind who comes.

Componds with **no-** generally make the sentence negative rather than any-/every- + negation.

* ***Nobody*** is permitted to enter.
* *Everybody/ anybody* is not permitted to enter.
* He is ***nowhere***.
* He is not *anywhere*.
* There is ***nothing*** to be added.
* There is not *anything* to be added.
* There is ***no one*** here.
* There is not ***anyone*** here.

Note: There is a difference in emphasis between nothing, nobody no one, nowhere and not… anything, not…anybody, not… anyone. , not…anywhere.

Compare:

* I do *not* know *anything* about it. (no emphasis)
* I know **nothing** about it. (more emphatic may be defensive)
* When I arrived, there was *not anybody* to meet me. (no emphasis)
* When I arrived, there was **nobody** to meet me. (disappointment)

Compounds with **every-** can be used in positive, negative, and interrogative statements.

* ***Everybody*** is here.
* Is ***everything*** ready?
* ***Everybody*** is not allowed to express his opinion.

Note: Indefinite pronouns take singular verbs.

* *Somebody* **is knocking** the door.

and **not**: Somebody are knocking the door.

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