

# ENGLISH

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## Demonstrative and Possessive Pronouns

### Demonstrative Pronouns

We know that '**demonstrate**' means to show. Therefore, **demonstrative pronouns** are those that show us the nouns or point towards them.

The four demonstrative pronouns in English are **this**, **that**, **these** and **those**.

- Like other pronouns, they too are used to replace nouns.
- Demonstrative pronouns represent nouns which are already mentioned before or are to be understood from context.

Let us look at an example.

**This** is my favourite.

The noun which stands for the pronoun '**This**' in the above sentence is unclear to us. It can only be clarified if

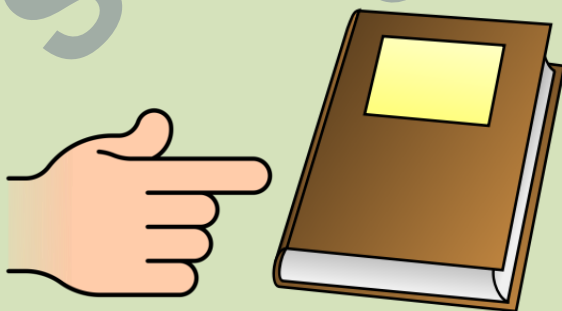
- There is an antecedent in the preceding sentence.

**Can you see this book?** **This** is my favourite.

Here it becomes clear that the pronoun '**This**' stands for '**book**'.

Or

- The speaker points towards the noun.



**This** is my favourite.

- Demonstrative pronouns such as **'that'** and **'those'** refer to nouns which are far from the speaker either in time or in distance.
- **'This'** and **'these'** refer to nouns which are close to the speaker either in time or in distance.
- **'This'** and **'that'** stand for singular nouns.
- **'These'** and **'those'** stand for plural nouns.

Demonstrative Pronouns	Near	Far
Singular	This	That
Plural	These	Those

- A demonstrative pronoun can represent an entire noun phrase.

The stew that she made looks delicious.

That looks delicious.

Let us look at a few more examples:

- Your negligence is a cause of great concern to us. This is not acceptable.
- Are these your new pet puppies?
- Those are the tombs of ancient kings.
- You need not worry about the safety of your employees Mr Sharma. That is our responsibility.



## Possessive Pronouns

- Possessive pronouns are used to show ownership or possession of nouns to pronouns.
- Pronouns like **mine**, **yours**, **his**, **hers** and **its** are known as singular possessive pronouns.
- Pronouns like **theirs** and **ours** are known as plural possessive pronouns.

The black sneakers are his.



In the above example, the possessive pronoun '**his**' states to whom '**the sneakers**' belong.

- Possessive pronouns are different from possessive adjectives because they do not qualify the noun.

### Possessive Adjective

This is her house.

### Possessive Pronoun

This house is hers.

- One should never use apostrophes with possessive pronouns to show possession.

The house is their's.



The house is theirs.



## Personal Pronouns

### What is a Personal Pronoun?

Previously, we have learnt that a **pronoun** is a word used in place of a **noun** which has already been used in a sentence. A **personal pronoun** is used primarily to refer to a specific person, thing or idea. It is used to refer to the first, second or third person in a sentence.

### First, Second and Third Person Pronouns

Personal pronouns can be categorised as **first**, **second** or **third person pronouns**.

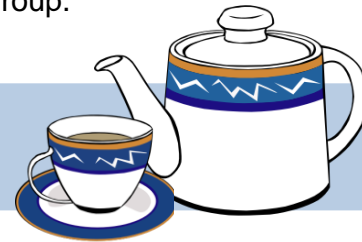
- A **first person pronoun** is used by the speaker to refer to himself or herself.
- It can also be used to refer to the group the speaker is a part of.
- **I, me, us, our, myself, ourselves** are first person pronouns.

- David interjected, "**I** have an idea! Why don't **we** all go to the movies?"
- Tina asked, "Can **I** have another one?"
- The team exclaimed, "Victory is **ours**!"



- A **second person pronoun** is used by the speaker to refer to the person he or she is directly talking to.
- It can be used to address a particular person or an entire group.
- **You, yourself** are examples of second person pronouns.

- Can **I** serve **you** some tea?
- **You** are all equally important to **me**.



- A **third person pronoun** is used by the speaker to refer to the person he or she is not directly addressing.
- **He, she, it, they, him, her** are examples of third person pronouns.

- Greta invited her friends today. **She** is looking forward to meeting **them**.
- Subramaniam has a beautiful voice. **He** practises singing every day.
- The dog held the bone securely in its mouth. **It** was afraid of the bigger dogs.
- The team members exhibited great team spirit. **They** brought home laurels.



## Singular and Plural Personal Pronouns

First Person	Singular	Plural
	I	We
Second Person	Singular	Plural
	You	You
Third Person	Singular	Plural
	He, she, it	They

## Nominative and Objective Pronouns

According to the role they play in the sentence, pronouns can be categorised as nominative pronouns or objective pronouns.

- A **nominative pronoun** is the **subject** of the verb.
- An **objective pronoun** is the **object** of the verb.

- He was arrested for his involvement in the abduction. (Nominative)
- The office called me. (Objective)
- She was the wife of the celebrated novelist. (Nominative)
- He ate it. (Objective)



Nominative	Objective
I	Me
You	You
He	Him
She	Her
It	It
They	Them
We	Us

## Gender of Pronouns

Pronouns can be divided into three categories according to the genders of the nouns they represent.

- Masculine gender pronoun:** He, his, him, himself
- Feminine gender pronoun:** She, her, hers, herself
- Neutral gender pronoun:** It, itself



He is my best friend.  
Radha invited her home.  
The assassin kept it on the table.

# Reflexive, Emphatic, Interrogative and Relative Pronouns

## Reflexive Pronouns

The term **reflexive** can be split into two parts—‘**re-**’ (the prefix which means ‘**back**’) and ‘**flex**’ (the root which means ‘**bend**’).

- A **reflexive pronoun** is a pronoun that ‘bends back’ to its antecedent\*. In other words, it is used to refer to the **object** when it is the same as the **subject**.
- Pronouns like ‘**myself**’, ‘**yourself**’, ‘**herself**’, ‘**himself**’, ‘**ourselves**’ and ‘**themselves**’ are known as reflexive pronouns.

SUBJECT/ANTECEDENT  
**Mrs De Winter**

VERB  
**hurt**

REFLEXIVE PRONOUN  
**herself**.

In the above example, we see that the noun ‘**Mrs De Winter**’ and the pronoun ‘**herself**’ refer to the same person. Both are the subject and the object of the verb ‘**hurt**’. The pronoun ‘**herself**’ bends back to the antecedent ‘**Mrs De Winter**’. Hence, ‘**herself**’ is a **reflexive pronoun**.

Let us look at a few more examples.

- The vain prince admired **himself** in the mirror.
- “Do I need one more pair of shoes?” Kavita asked **herself**.
- Good students have the power to motivate **themselves**.
- A narcissist is a person who loves **himself**.
- I cannot lie to **myself**.



An antecedent\* is the noun which the pronoun replaces.

## Emphatic Pronouns

- Pronouns like '**myself**', '**himself**', '**herself**', '**itself**', '**themselves**' and '**ourselves**' can also be **emphatic pronouns**. Functionally, however, emphatic pronouns are different from reflexive pronouns.
- While reflexive pronouns are used to refer to the antecedent, emphatic pronouns are used to **lay emphasis on the antecedent**.

SUBJECT/ANTECEDENT

**Mrs Dalloway**

said she would buy the flowers

EMPHATIC PRONOUN

**herself**.

In the above example, '**Mrs Dalloway**' is the antecedent of the pronoun herself. In this sentence, 'herself' functions as a word which lays emphasis on its antecedent.

Let us look at a few more examples.

- Margaret **herself** was the forger of the documents.
- The weapon **itself** was missing.
- The judge **herself** was found embroiled in the controversy.
- The detective **himself** was confounded by the crime.



## Singular and Plural Reflexive/Emphatic Pronouns

Singular	Plural
Myself	Ourselves
Yourself	Yourselves
Himself, herself, itself	Themselves

## Interrogative Pronouns

We know that the term 'interrogate' means to ask questions. **Interrogative pronouns** are those which are used for forming questions.

Who	Whom	Whose
Which	What	Whichever
Whoever	Whomever	Whatever

Let us look at a few examples.

- **Who** ran the fastest?
- **Which** door should be opened?
- **What** is the time?
- **Whose** cat is this?
- **Whom** shall we go to?



- **Whoever** told her she could sing?
- **Whatever** is she reading?
- **Whomever** is he marrying?
- **Whichever** is the correct answer to that question?



## Relative Pronouns

- Relative pronouns help us refer back to the antecedent.
- Although they may look like interrogative pronouns, their functions are completely different.

The warrior who was wounded fought bravely.

In this sentence, the pronoun '**who**' refers to the antecedent '**The warrior**'.

- Relative pronouns are also used to join parts of sentences.

The man

+

whom you met

+

is my father.

## Usage of Relative Pronouns

Who and Whom	<p>Both pronouns are used to refer to people. They can also be used to refer to animals.</p> <p><b>Who</b> – used for referring to the subject</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>This is the writer <b>who</b> wrote 'The Grapes of Wrath'.</i> (‘the writer’ is the one who ‘wrote’; ‘the writer’ is the subject)</li> </ul> <p><b>Whom</b> – used for referring to the object</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>The man <b>whom</b> I thought highly of turned out to be a fraud.</i> (‘I’ thought of the ‘man’; ‘the man’ is the object)</li> </ul>
Whose	<p>The relative pronoun ‘whose’ is used to refer to people who possess something.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>This is the uncle <b>whose</b> house I live in.</i> (The pronoun ‘whose’ refers to the uncle who owns the house)</li> </ul>
Which	<p>The relative pronoun ‘which’ is used to refer to objects or animals.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>The dog <b>which</b> the Fitzgeralds abandoned used to be their pet.</i> (The pronoun ‘which’ refers to the dog)</li> </ul>
That	<p>That is used to refer to people, objects and animals.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>The hand <b>that</b> rocks the cradle rules the world.</i> (The pronoun ‘that’ refers to ‘the hand’)</li> </ul>