

## Personal Pronouns

A personal pronoun is a word used to take the place of a noun that names one or more persons or things.

Personal pronouns refer to persons in these three ways:

1. When the pronoun refers to the person speaking, it is in the **first person**: *I, me, mine, we, our, ours*, and *us*, for example.
2. When the pronoun refers to some other person(s) spoken to, it is in the **second person**: *you, your, yours*.
3. When the pronoun refers to some other person(s) or thing(s) being spoken of, it is in the **third person**: *he, his, him, she, her, hers, it, they, their, theirs, them*, for example.

The mail carrier gave one card to *me*. (speaker—*first person*)

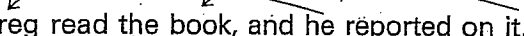
The rest of the mail is for *you*. (person spoken to—*second person*)

Put *it* on the table. (thing spoken about—*third person*)

Pronouns in the third person that refer to male people are said to be in the **masculine gender**. Pronouns that refer to female people are said to be in the **feminine gender**. Pronouns that refer to things are said to be in the **neuter gender**.

**Finding Pronouns** Underline each pronoun in the following sentences. Draw an arrow to the noun it refers to.

**Example** Greg read the book, and he reported on it.



1. The people in Oakdale keep their homes neat.
2. Water the plants twice a week, and give them plenty of sun.
3. Annie saw the bus coming, but she couldn't catch it.
4. Jason wanted Ann to help him with the project.
5. After Pat wound the watch, she put it on.
6. The Joneses called Therese, and they invited her to dinner.
7. My brother has three fish tanks in his room.
8. The sun rose and cast its beams on the still water.
9. Manuel's friends love to ski; they go skiing often.
10. Paul lent Sandi his bicycle because hers had a broken chain.

## Indefinite Pronouns

An indefinite pronoun is a pronoun that does not refer to a specific person or a specific thing. Most indefinite pronouns are singular in number, referring to only one person or thing. These pronouns take a singular verb and their antecedents also take a singular verb.

another	each	everything	one
anybody	either	neither	somebody
anyone	everybody	nobody	someone
anything	everyone	no one	

**Example** Did anyone bring *his* or *her* permission slip?  
(Not: Did anyone bring *their* permission slip?)

A few indefinite pronouns are plural, referring to more than one person or thing. These pronouns take a plural verb and their antecedents also take a plural verb.

both    many    few    several

The pronouns *all*, *some*, *any*, and *none* may be singular or plural, depending on their meaning in the sentence.

Some of the ice <i>is</i> melting.	None of the snow <i>is</i> shoveled.
Some of the flowers <i>are</i> wilting.	None of our relatives <i>are</i> coming.

**Using the Correct Verb with an Indefinite Pronoun** In each sentence below, underline the indefinite pronoun. Then underline the correct verb from those given in parentheses.

**Example** Everybody (want, wants) to go on the field trip.

1. Neither of the coats (look, looks) good on you.
2. All of the milk (is, are) gone.
3. Somebody (has, have) left a pair of shoes in my locker.
4. Each of us (earn, earns) money by mowing lawns.
5. Both of them (is, are) good students.
6. Sometimes everything (seem, seems) to go wrong.
7. Neither of the animals (is, are) in a cage.
8. None of the leaves (have, has) turned brown.
9. One of our favorite TV shows (was, were) canceled.
10. Each of the team members (practice, practices) alone.
11. Few (know, knows) the Preamble to the Constitution.
12. Everything in the basement (need, needs) washing.

## Demonstrative and Interrogative Pronouns

A demonstrative pronoun is used to single out one or more persons or things referred to in the sentence. The demonstrative pronouns are *this*, *that*, *these*, and *those*.

*This* and *these* point to persons or things that are near. *That* and *those* point to persons or things farther away.

*This* is my bathrobe.                      *These* are your books.  
*That* is Ellen's home town.              *Those* are the mayor's offices.

An interrogative pronoun is a pronoun that asks a question. The interrogative pronouns are *who*, *whose*, *whom*, *which*, and *what*.

*Who* is there?                                      *Which* is the best track shoe?  
*Whose* are these?                                *What* is wrong?  
*Whom* were you expecting?

**Using Demonstrative Pronouns** Underline the correct demonstrative pronoun in each of the following sentences.

1. (This, These) is my teacher's homework assignment.
2. (These, Those) on the other shelf are my sister's records.
3. (These, Those) are my records in this rack.
4. (This, That) is our school across the field.
5. (These, Those) over there belong to my friend.

**Identifying Demonstrative and Interrogative Pronouns** Underline the pronoun in each sentence below. On the line, write *demonstrative* or *interrogative* to show what kind of pronoun it is.

1. Whom has Chet invited? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What should the volunteers do? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Arrange those in a vase, please. \_\_\_\_\_
4. This is the helmet Julie chose. \_\_\_\_\_
5. Who are the captains for the relay race? \_\_\_\_\_
6. These are the drawings Andy made. \_\_\_\_\_
7. Which are the newest books? \_\_\_\_\_
8. That is a hawk. \_\_\_\_\_

## The Forms of the Pronoun (I)

A personal pronoun has three forms: the *subject form*, the *object form*, and the *possessive form*.

**The Subject Form of Pronouns** A personal pronoun is used in the subject form (1) when it is a subject or (2) when it follows a linking verb as in a predicate pronoun. Here are the subject forms of the personal pronouns:

I    you    he    she    it    we    you    they

*She* will be ready promptly. (personal pronoun used as *subject*)

This is *he*. (personal pronoun used as *predicate pronoun* after linking verb)

**The Object Form of Pronouns** A personal pronoun is used in the **object form** (1) when it is the direct or indirect object of a verb or (2) when it is the object of a preposition. Here are the object forms of the personal pronouns:

me    you    him    her    it    us    you    them

Dad surprised *me*. (direct object)

Ted sent *her* a card. (indirect object)

Someone sent a note to *us*. (object of the preposition)

**Using the Correct Form of Pronouns** Underline the correct pronoun from those given in parentheses. On the line, write whether the pronoun has the *subject* or *object* form.

1. (We, Us) hiked for three miles. \_\_\_\_\_
2. That much exercise tires (me, I). \_\_\_\_\_
3. Will (she, her) be at the awards assembly? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Tell (them, they) about your recent good fortune. \_\_\_\_\_
5. Is the gift for (we, us)? \_\_\_\_\_
6. My brother gave (me, I) his binoculars. \_\_\_\_\_
7. (She, Her) enjoys scuba diving. \_\_\_\_\_
8. The winner is (he, him). \_\_\_\_\_
9. The waterfall drenched (I, me). \_\_\_\_\_
10. Dad called (us, we) to dinner. \_\_\_\_\_
11. We grilled hamburgers for (they, them). \_\_\_\_\_
12. Everyone likes (she, her). \_\_\_\_\_