

The Pronoun



As already made clear a pronoun is a word used instead of noun :

Kinds of Pronouns

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| 1. Personal Pronouns. | 2. Interrogative Pronouns. |
| 3. Relative Pronouns. | 4. Demonstrative Pronouns. |
| 5. Reflexive Pronouns. | 6. Distributive Pronouns. |
| 7. Indefinite Pronouns. | |

1. Personal Pronouns.

There are three persons of pronouns.

- (i) **First Person Pronouns** stand for the person speaking as : I, we.
- (ii) **Second Person Pronouns** stand for spoken to as : you, thou.
- (iii) **Third Person Pronouns** stand for the persons spoken of, as : he, she, they.

Different Forms of Personal Pronouns

(a) First Person Pronoun :

Case	Singular	Plural
Nominative	I	We
Possessive	my, mine	our, ours
Objective	me	us

(b) Second Person Pronoun :

Case	Singular	Plural
Nominative	you, thou	you, yet, or you
Possessive	your, thy, thine	your, your, yours
Objective	thee, you	you, you



Note : (i) 'You' is used both in singular and plural as well.

(ii) Thou, thee, thy, thine are now used in prayer or in poetry only.

(c) Third Person Pronouns :

Case	Singular	Plural
	Masculine	Feminine
Nominative	he	she
Possessive	his	her-hers
Objective	him	her
		Neuter
		All genders
		it
		their-theirs
		them

It may be noted that personal pronouns such as :

- (i) I, we, he, she, it, they are used as 'Subjects'.
- (ii) Me, us, him, her, its, them are used as 'Objects'.

Use of the pronoun 'it'.

(a) For lifeless objects, as :

This is my book. It is very interesting.

- (b) For lower animals, as : Birds, beasts etc. e.g. The crow is in the garden. It is cawing.

(c) For a child, as : Is it your baby ?

(d) Special use of, (it)

(i) Who is knocking at the door ? It is I.

(ii) It was the postman who knocked at the door.

(e) As an introductory word :

(i) It is too cold to go out.

(ii) It is snowing.

2. Interrogative Pronouns :

These are used to introduce questions :

Examples : (i) Who is knocking at the door ?

(ii) What is wrong with you ?

It may be noted that who, whom, whose, what, which are Interrogative Pronouns.

It may be further noted that :

(i) Who, whom and whose are used for persons.

(ii) What is used for things.

(iii) Which is used for persons and things.

3. Relative Pronouns.

Study the following examples :

(i) This is the boy who stole your pen.

(ii) Show me the pen which you bought yesterday.

(iii) Here is the man whom the police caught red handed.

In these sentences, 'who', 'which', 'whom' are pronouns used for nouns and join two sentences. These are relative pronouns.

4. Demonstrative Pronouns.

Study the following examples :

(i) This is my pen.

(ii) These are my copy books.

(iii) That is his inkpot.

(iv) Those are his pencils.

In the above sentences, 'this', 'these', 'that', 'those' are demonstrative pronouns.

It may be noted that 'this', 'these' are used for objects near at Hand and 'that' and 'those' are used for distant objects.

5. Reflexive Pronouns.

Examples : (i) He enjoyed himself.

(ii) I availed myself of two days' leave.

Please note that 'himself', 'herself', 'themselves', 'myself', 'ourselves', 'yourself' are reflexive pronouns.

6. Distributive Pronouns.

Look at the following sentences :

(i) Each of the students won a prize.

(ii) Neither of the girls was in the room.

(iii) Either of the boys has stolen the book.

In the above sentences, the words, 'each', 'neither', 'either' refer to the persons 'one' at a time. They are "Distributive Pronouns". They always take a singular verb.

7. Indefinite Pronouns.

Study the following sentences :

(i) All sang the national song.

(ii) None came to the rescue of the drowning man.

(iii) Some of the students did not come on time.

(iv) Few were the words he uttered.

In the above sentences 'all', 'none', 'some' and 'few' are indefinite pronouns. They refer to objects or persons in a general way.

SOME COMMON ERRORS IN THE USE OF PRONOUNS

<i>Incorrect</i>	<i>Correct</i>
1. He is wiser than me.	He is wiser than I.
2. Who is shouting outside ? It is me.	Who is shouting outside ? It is I.
3. Either Ram or Sham have played this mischief.	Either Ram or Sham has played this mischief.
4. Neither Mohan nor his sister have done their home work.	Neither Mohan nor his sister has done her home work.
5. I, you and he live in the same town.	You, he and I live in the same town.
6. You and I did this mischief.	I and you did this mischief.
7. Let you and I do this work.	Let you and me do this work.
8. This is the man who I like most.	This is the man who I like most.
9. It is I who is to blame.	It is I who am to blame.
10. One should obey his elders.	One should obey one's elders.
11. I did not avail of opportunity.	I did not avail myself of the opportunity.
12. Either of three boys has done this mischief.	Any of the three boys has done this mischief.

EXERCISE-VIII

(a) Correct the following :

1. Mohan is fatter than me.
2. One must keep his promise.
3. Can he speak as well as me ?
4. It is you who is in the wrong.
5. The two brothers love one another dearly.
6. They went to Shimla and enjoyed.
7. Between you and I, he is a thief.
8. Neither of the three labourers are honest.

(b) Fill in the blanks :

1. There was none laughed in the class.
2. He laughs best laughs last.
3. He fears a fall must not climb at all.
4. One must do duty.
5. Let service of India be first religion.
6. The hand rocks the cradle rules the world.
7. The hands help are better than the lips pray.
8. The climate of Delhi is better than of Shimla.
9. Uneasy lies the head wears the crown.
10. He is the person I think is at fault.