

**ENGLISH**

## 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

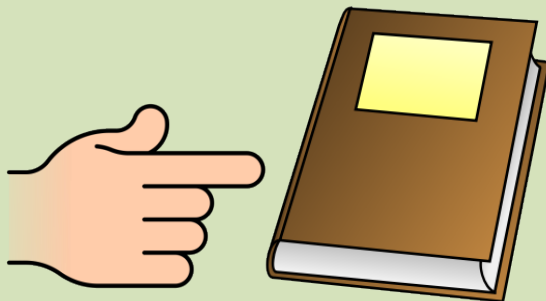
- There is an antecedent in the preceding sentence.

**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.

## ENGLISH | PRONOUNS-DEMONSTRATIVEANDPOSSESSIVE

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

| Demonstrative<br>Pronouns | Near  | Far   |
|---------------------------|-------|-------|
| Singular                  | This  | That  |
| Plural                    | These | Those |

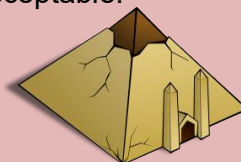
- A demonstrative pronoun can represent an entire nounphrase.

**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 herhouse.

### 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 everyday.
- 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

|                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| <b>Who and Whom</b> | <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><br/>(‘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><br/>(‘I’ thought of the ‘man’; ‘the man’ is the object)</li> </ul> |
| <b>Whose</b>        | <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><br/>(The pronoun ‘whose’ refers to the uncle who owns the house)</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Which</b>        | <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><br/>(The pronoun ‘which’ refers to the dog)</li> </ul>  |
| <b>That</b>         | <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><br/>(The pronoun ‘that’ refers to ‘the hand’)</li> </ul>   |