



A **pronoun** is a word that replaces a noun or noun phrase in a sentence.

Types of Pronouns and Examples

There are several types of pronouns, each serving a specific grammatical function:

- 1. Personal Pronouns:** These refer to specific people or things and change form based on person (first, second, third), number (singular, plural), gender (masculine, feminine, neuter), and case (subject, object, possessive).
 - Subject Pronouns
 - Object Pronouns
 - Possessive Pronouns
- 2. Possessive Adjectives (or Determiners):** While often grouped with pronouns, these *modify* nouns to show ownership and do not stand alone.
- 3. Reflexive Pronouns:** These refer back to the subject of the sentence, indicating that the subject is both performing and receiving the action. They end in "-self" (singular) or "-selves" (plural).
- 4. Demonstrative Pronouns:** These point out specific people or things.
- 5. Interrogative Pronouns:** These are used to ask questions.
- 6. Indefinite Pronouns:** These refer to unspecified people or things.
 - Singular
 - Plural
- 7. Reciprocal Pronouns:** These express a mutual relationship between two or more people or things.





Rules

Personal Pronoun: Use and Rules

1. A pronoun should clearly refer the noun it stands for.

Examples:

(1) My friend was there with her aunt. She was wearing a red saree.

2. Personal pronouns in the objective case are used as objects of prepositions.

Examples:

1. Please give the copy to him.
2. They went with her.

3. Must agree with their antecedents.

Examples:

1. The boy obeys his father.
2. The girl likes her mother.
3. The bird sat on its nest.

4. Used with gerunds:

Examples:

1. The girl said that **her** writing had improved.
2. The boy entertained the guests with his singing.

5. The possessive form of a personal pronoun which is called as a possessive pronoun, can be used in the place of a noun.

Examples:

1. He did not bring his briefcase, but I brought mine 2. Because I forgot my pen, she lent me hers. In the above sentences, the possessive pronouns are underlined.

6. Pronoun follows Let

Example:

Let you and I decide the matter once for all.





7. Different person pronouns with the same verb

(i) If pronouns are in **Singular forms**

Examples:

- (a) You, he and I are partners.
- (b) He and I are good friends.

(ii) If pronouns are in **plural forms**

Examples:

- (a) We and you cannot live together.
- (b) We, you and they can purchase that complex.

(iii) Sometimes the sentence has some apologetic sense or negative sense or sense of some errors committed etc.

Examples:

- (a) I and you are responsible for the loss.
- (b) You and he spoiled the party.

8. If a pronoun refers to more than one noun or pronoun of different persons (Singular / Plural)

II + I ----- I Person plural

II + III ----- II Person plural

III + I ----- I Person plural

Examples:

- (a) You and I have done our job.
- (b) You and he have completed your job.

9. If a collective noun is used as a unit denoting a unitary action as a whole, the pronoun used is singular and in neutral gender.

Examples:

- (a) The crew revolted and murdered its captain.
- (b) After three days, the jury gave its verdict.





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10. When two or more nouns are joined by 'and' the pronoun used would be plural.

Example:

- (a) Ram and Mohan went to their school.
- (b) The collector and magistrate is negligent in his duty.

11. When two singular nouns are joined by and preceded by each or every, the pronoun used would be singular.

Example: Every teacher and every boy was in his room.

12. Singular pronoun and singular verb is used with; Each, Either and Neither.

Examples:

- (a) Each of the students is ready to do his duty.
- (b) Neither of them gets his turn.

13. Singular pronoun is used when two or more singular nouns are joined by 'or', 'Either.....or', 'Neither.....nor'.

Example: Either Ramesh or Ganesh lost his purse.

Example: Either the principal or the teachers failed in their duty.

Reflexive Pronouns: Rules

1. When pronouns are combined, the reflexive will take either the first person or, when there is no first person, the second person.

Examples:

- (a) Ram, and I have deceived ourselves about purchasing a house.
- (b) You and Ram have ruined yourselves

2. Verbs when used intransitively don't need an object.

Examples:

- He kept away from the function. (Correct)
- He kept himself away from the function. (Incorrect)





Emphatic Pronouns

The Emphatic pronouns consist of a **personal pronoun + self or selves**.

Examples:

- (a) I myself solved this question.
- (b) She herself found the solution.

Reciprocal Pronouns

'Each other' and 'one another' are only two Reciprocal Pronouns.

Example: For you and I are foreigners to one another.

- (a) They both borrowed each other's ideas.
- (b) The students in this lab often use one another's equipment.

Relative Pronouns

Who

Examples:

- (a) The child who secures the highest marks will receive a trophy.
- (b) My brother, who is learning Russian, wants to travel to Kazakhstan.

Whom

Examples:

- (a) The girl whom we visited is her sister.
- (b) Mr. Francis, whom we will meet tomorrow, will be our guide.
- (c) The girl to whom you gave your umbrella lives near my house.
- (d) His aunt, to whom we send a birthday card every year, is ninety-eight years old now.

Whose

Examples:

- (a) The man whose house was sold will leave this town.
- (b) My brother, whose family lives in America, will visit us for a few days.





That

Examples:

- (a) The girls that were here yesterday will return in a week.
- (b) The bag that was on the steps belongs to our tenant.

1. That can be used for living and non-living nouns, for singular as well as plurals.

Examples:

- (a) I have lost the book that you gave me.
- (b) He that is content is happy.

2. No preposition is used before that, if any preposition is required to be used, it is used in ending position.

Examples:

- (a) We know the hotel that she lives in.
- (b) This is the lady that I told you about.

3. After interrogative pronoun-'who' and 'what' that is used.

Examples:

- (a) What is it that you can't solve.
- (b) Who was there that you were talking with.

Which

Example: The book which I purchased last week is very useful.

What

Example: What you say is not true.

Distributive pronouns

Each, Either and Neither are classified as Distributive Pronouns.

Examples:

- (a) Each of the students gets a prize.





- (b) Either of the two will win the race.
(c) Every one of the students was happy.
(d) Each of the two students received a medal.

Who / Whom

Examples:

- (a) The person who (or whom?) we thought was guilty proved to be innocent.
(b) The man who (or whom?) we feared we had injured proved to be unharmed.

A similar difficulty may arise with questions:

Example: Who (not whom) do you think we saw?

Practice Questions

Directions (Q. Nos. 1 - 20) Read each sentence to find out whether there is any error in it. The error, if any, will be in one part of the sentence, the number of the part is the answer. If there is no error, the answer is (5).

1. She lent me (1)/ some money with the condition (2)/ that I should return (3)/ the same within a month. (4)/ No error (5)

- a) (1) b) (2) c) (3) d) (4) e) (5)

2. The teacher instructed (1)/ the peon to let (2)/ the students and I (3)/ go into the office of Principal. (4)/ No error (5)

- a) (1) b) (2) c) (3) d) (4) e) (5)

3. The candidate (1)/ being a commerce graduate (2)/ she is eligible (3)/ for the post of accountant. (4)/ No error (5)

- a) (1) b) (2) c) (3) d) (4) e) (5)

4. In all circumstances (1)/I have (2)/ helped him (3)/and he knows. (4)/ No error (5)

- a) (1) b) (2) c) (3) d) (4) e) (5)





5. I don't appreciate (1)/him who laugh (2)/ at others without (3)/ any reason. (4)/ No error (5)

- a) (1) b) (2) c) (3) d) (4) e) (5)

6. You and myself (1)/ will enjoy the function (2)/ arranged in honour of (3)/ the new Principal. (4)/ No error (5)

- a) (1) b) (2) c) (3) d) (4) e) (5)

7. He asked for (1)/ permission to go to the cinema (2)/ but his mother (3)/ did not give. (4)/ No error (5)

- a) (1) b) (2) c) (3) d) (4) e) (5)

8. Government departments should (1)/ share information with (2)/ one another so that (3)/ they records are up-to-date. (4)/ No error (5)

- a) (1) b) (2) c) (3) d) (4) e) (5)

9. If a software company (1)/ sends its employees abroad (2)/ to work for a foreign client, they (3) /pays them a daily allowance. (4)/ No error (5)

- a) (1) b) (2) c) (3) d) (4) e) (5)

10. Banks which do not (1)/ meet its priority sector (2)/ targets are required to (3) /pay high penalties. (4)/ No error (5)

- a) (1) b) (2) c) (3) d) (4) e) (5)

11. There were (1)/ five active workers (2)/ and three lazy one (3)/ in the factory. (4)/ No error (5)

- a) (1) b) (2) c) (3) d) (4) e) (5)

12. There is none (1)/ who can (2)/support you (3)/ in this crucial period. (4)/ No error (5)

- a) (1) b) (2) c) (3) d) (4) e) (5)





13. Any of the (1)/ two photos which reflect (2)/ the natural beauty of Kashmir (3)/ is worth seeing. (4)/ No error (5)

- a) (1) b) (2) c) (3) d) (4) e) (5)

14. The guests (1)/ whom we were talking (2)/about have arrived (3) /are my relatives. (4)/ No error (5)

- a) (1) b) (2) c) (3) d) (4) e) (5)

15. He introduced (1)/ to the chairman as (2)/ the President of the (3)/ workers association. (4)/ No error (5)

- a) (1) b) (2) c) (3) d) (4) e) (5)

16. As a student (1)/ of arts (2)/ you are much better (3)/ than him. (4)/ No error (5)

- a) (1) b) (2) c) (3) d) (4) e) (5)

17. He hates everybody (1)/ and everything who(2)/reminds him (3)/ of his blunder. (4)/ No error (5)

- a) (1) b) (2) c) (3) d) (4) e) (5)

18. Whomever (1)/ does not come in time (2)/ will not be allowed (3)/ to mark his presence. (4)/ No error (5)

- a) (1) b) (2) c) (3) d) (4) e) (5)

19. The six partners (1)/ are at daggers drawn (2)/ so they do not talk (3)/ to each other. (4)/ No error (5)

- a) (1) b) (2) c) (3) d) (4) e) (5)

20. If someone has (1)/completed (2)/ the work (3)/ he may leave. (4)/ No error (5)

- a) (1) b) (2) c) (3) d) (4) e) (5)

