

Pronouns are essentially words that stand for nouns. There are many different types of pronoun.

Personal pronouns

Personal pronouns refer to specific people, places or things.

We saw him.

They went to see it.

Personal pronouns can have different forms depending on whether they are the subject or the object in a sentence. It is a common mistake to use the wrong one, so you should be careful with them when using Standard English:

- ✘ Him and me went to the shops.
- ✓ He and I went to the shops.

Some people wrongly use the subject form **I** when they should use the object form **me**, because they think it sounds better.

- ✘ Dad gave sweets to John and I.
- ✓ Dad gave sweets to John and *me*.

Reflexive pronouns

Reflexive pronouns are sometimes called **compound pronouns**. These are forms that end in **-self** or **-selves**.

I hurt myself.

I hope you enjoy yourselves.

Some people wrongly use reflexive pronouns when they should use simple personal pronouns, because they think it sounds better.

- ✘ He handed over two pens, one for you and one for myself.
- ✓ He handed over two pens, one for you and one for *me*.



Possessive pronouns

Possessive pronouns indicate ownership.

The cakes are *his*, the sweets are *mine*, and the biscuits are *theirs*.

Remember: possessive pronouns never have apostrophes.

Indefinite pronouns

Indefinite pronouns refer to non-specific people or things.

Nobody knows *anything* about what happened.

Many are called, *some* are chosen, but *few* succeed.

Interrogative pronouns

Interrogative pronouns begin questions.

Whose is this?

Who are you?

Which shirt should I wear?

Demonstrative pronouns

Demonstrative pronouns 'point to' the nouns they replace.

These (books) are good books.

That (habit) is an annoying habit.

It is a common mistake to use a personal pronoun rather than the correct demonstrative pronoun in some cases, so you should be careful not to do this when using Standard English:

- ✘ Give me them books.
- ✘ Give me they books.
- ✓ Give me *those* books.



Relative pronouns

Relative pronouns are special pronouns that begin relative clauses:

Can we see a film *that* I like, for a change?

The boy *who* was climbing the trees had an accident.



What type of pronoun are the following?

I

someone

them

several

its

why

yours

those

Sometimes when you use pronouns, a sentence is confusing. Try to be clear what you mean!

- ✘ If the cat does not like raw fish, cook it.
- ✓ Cook the fish if your cat does not like raw fish.