Pronoun Study Guide

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Pronoun: A word that replaces another noun or pronoun.

Antecedent: The noun or pronoun that a pronoun replaces.

Ex. When Kate went to the mall, she bought Cathy some shoes.

She is the pronoun, and the antecedent is Kate.

Pronouns should agree with their antecedents in gender and number.

Personal/Possessive Pronouns

Personal pronouns refers to the one speaking (1st person); the one spoken to (2nd person); the one spoken about (3rd person).

Possessive pronouns are personal pronouns that show ownership.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Singular | Plural | Possessive |
| 1st Person | My, mine, I, me | We, us, our, ours | My, mine, our, ours |
| 2nd Person | You, your, yours | You, your, yours | Your, yours |
| 3rd Person | He, him, his, her, she, hers, it, its | They, them, their, theirs | His, her, hers, him, its, their, theirs, them |

Examples of personal/possessive pronouns:

1. I will go to the park on Sunday and play fetch with my dog.
2. Neha couldn’t find the key to the door, so she was locked out until her parents came home.

Strategy to Remember

An easy way to remember personal/possessive pronouns is to study the chart above.

Demonstrative Pronouns

Demonstrative pronouns points out a specific person, place, thing, or idea.

Demonstrative pronouns include **this, that, these, and those**.

A demonstrative pronoun can be an **object of preposition, PNOM, DO, or subject**.

Examples:

Remember that demonstrative pronouns all start with “t”.

1. This is the house on Maple Street. (subject)
2. Have you seen this? (direct object)

Indefinite Pronouns

Indefinite pronouns refers to a person, place, thing, or idea

that may or may not be specifically named.

Commonly used indefinite pronouns include:

**All, another, any, anybody, anyone, both, each, either, everybody, everyone, few, many, most, neither, nobody, none, no one, one, other, several, some, somebody, someone, and such.**

Example:

1. **Nobody** was pleased when the teacher gave them extra homework.
2. **Few** missed class to see the basketball game.
3. Clara and Sara made **everyone** a beautiful bookmark when the class was doing a novel study.

You can usually tell if a pronoun is indefinite by seeing if the pronoun tells you a quantity (some, all, none, etc.)

Relative Pronouns

Relative pronouns introduce an adjective clause in a complex or compound-complex sentence.

The five relative pronouns are **that, which, whom, whose,** and **who**.

1. Isabel, **who** loves eating candy, got a cavity.
2. The flower, **which** got trampled on the ground, slowly wilted and died.

The princess, **who was rescued from the evil villain**, lived happily ever after.

TIP: To identify a relative pronoun, first find an adjective clause.

Interrogative Pronouns

An interrogative pronoun introduces a question.

Interrogative pronouns are **who, whom, whose, which**, and **what**.

Examples:

1. Who stole the cookies from the cookie jar?

2. What made the mess in here?

To see if a pronoun is intensive, read the sentence without the pronoun and see if it still makes sense. If the sentence still makes sense without the pronoun, then the pronoun is intensive.

Reflexive/Intensive Pronouns

Reflexive pronouns refer to the subject and are **necessary** to the basic meaning of a sentence.

Intensive pronouns emphasize the antecedent and are **unnecessary** to the basic meaning of a sentence.

Examples of Reflexive:

TIP: A helpful way to remember/identify reflexive and intensive pronouns is that they usually end in self or selves.

1. Nina gave herself a manicure and a pedicure.
2. Mark blamed himself for the horrible test grade.

Examples of Intensive:

1. Selena Gomez herself was at the concert.
2. The Girl Scout troops themselves went and sold cookies.

Subjective: You can remember and identify a subjective noun by looking at the subject of a sentence.

Objective: Any pronoun in the predicate part of a sentence is objective; you can memorize the objective pronouns by noticing what pronouns are in the predicate part of a sentence.

Subjective/Objective Pronouns

A subjective pronoun is a pronoun that is in the subject part of the sentence.

An object pronoun is a pronoun that is in the predicate (DO, IO, and object of preposition).

Examples of subjective:

1. I went to the mall last Sunday. 2. She was the one that won first place.

Examples of objective:

1. Our mom bought pink shoes for us. 2. Claire made him some cake.