

Understanding English Nouns and Pronouns



**Examples
Definitions
Explanations
Exercises**



**Easy
Simplified
Detailed**

Goodman Publishing

UNDERSTANDING ENGLISH NOUNS AND PRONOUNS

A Step-by-Step Guide to English as a Second Language for Teachers,
Parents, Foreigners, and ESL Learners to Speak and Write Like a Pro

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The logo for Goodman Publishing is written in a cursive script. The word "Goodman" is on the left and "Publishing" is on the right, with a small gap between them. The letters are elegant and flowing, with a classic calligraphic style.

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CHAPTER ONE: ENGLISH FOUNDATIONS

Parts of Speech

Look at the human body. You don't need anyone to tell you that everything in your body is where they are supposed to be. Your head is on your head. Your eyes are in your eyes. Your ears are where ears should be. Your legs are what help you to stand, walk and run. You can also bend with the help of your knees.

Imagine how it would feel like when your eyes are where the nose is. You won't feel comfortable seeing your legs on your head or your hands on your back. That would make life unbearable.

All the parts of the body are in the right places. None of them is in the wrong place. The arrangement of the parts of the body gives the entire body its unique and attractive shape. The same is true with speech in English. Every word in the sentence or statement you make has a name. They have a position they belong to in the English language.

The English language has its own structure. All the parts in that structure are special and must not be changed. They must be carefully placed where they belong or else nothing will make sense.

Understanding where each part of the structure belongs will help you make good sentences.

There are nine (9) parts of speech, namely:

1. Nouns
2. Pronouns
3. Adverbs
4. Verbs
5. Adverbs
6. Prepositions
7. Conjunctions
8. Interjections
9. Articles

These nine items make up most of the things you say in English. When you talk to friends, you must pick from these parts of speech. When you tell stories, you must choose your words from these items. When you meet your boss in the office or your teacher in school, your words must be carefully made up of these parts of speech. When you describe an incident or report an issue, your words must contain some or all of these components of speech.

As long as you use the English language, you need the knowledge of parts of speech. That is why you should understand each component of speech. It will help you speak and write well in the English language.

Now look at some examples and how the sentences are broken down into various parts.

1. He is my best friend.
2. The new girl sat on a wide bench.
3. The bird flew in the sky.
4. Our team won the game. Hurrah!

5. Mother and I went to the market.

HE IS MY BEST FRIEND.

He --- pronoun

Is --- verb

My --- pronoun

Best --- adjective

Friend --- noun

THE NEW GIRL SAT ON A WIDE BENCH.

The --- article

New --- adjective

Girl --- noun

Sat --- verb

On --- preposition

A --- article

Wide -- adjective

Bench -- noun

THE BIRD FLEW IN THE SKY.

The --- article

Bird --- noun

Flew --- verb

In --- preposition

The --- article

Sky --- noun

OUR TEAM WON THE GAME. HURRAH!

Our --- pronoun
Team --- noun
Won --- verb
The --- article
Game --- noun
Hurrah ---interjection

MOTHER AND I WALKED HOME.

Mother --- noun
And --- conjunction
I --- pronoun
Walked --- verb
Home --- noun

PRACTICE QUESTIONS 1

Break down each word in the sentences and put in their correct categories (parts of speech) as done in the examples above.

1. He is going home today.
2. I will tell you a story.
3. She is my little sister.
4. They participated in the Olympics.
5. Shiva thought he knew the answer.
6. My friend is an engineer.
7. Practice helps you understand better.
8. Remember the things your teacher taught you.
9. Come and sit down.
10. We missed the school bus.

If you could not get the answers, try again later.

CHAPTER TWO: NAMING WORDS (1)

Nouns: Definition

Do you have a name? Yes, you do. Do you live in a city or a country? Of course, every one of us does. Nouns are names of persons, animals, places, objects, events, days of the week, days of the month, feelings and anything that has a name.

Everything we see has a name, and names are nouns. No matter what something is, if it has name, that name is a noun. Let's break down the definition of nouns.

PERSONS

Examples of names of persons are: John, Raju, Singh, Khan, Abraham, Mary, Pia, Kareena

ANIMALS

Lion, elephant, tiger, fox, cheetah, kangaroo, goat, cat, cow, chicken, rat, rabbit, squirrel

PLACES

India, Pakistan, America, Shimla, New York, China, Japan, Goa, museum, park, market

OBJECTS

Table, chair, pen, pencil, bag, paper, tin, gun, mat, wrapper, sari, basket, bucket, kettle

EVENTS

Diwali, Christmas, Pongal, Holi, Onam, Easter, Ramadan, Eid al Fitr,
Children's Day, Workers Day

DAYS OF THE WEEK

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday

DAYS OF THE MONTH

January, February, March, April, May, June, July, August, September,
October, November, December

FEELINGS

Anger, fear, sadness, excitement, love, satisfaction, annoyance, disgust,
worry, shame, loneliness

Types of Nouns

There are about ten (10) types of nouns. They are:

1. Proper Nouns
2. Common Nouns
3. Concrete Nouns
4. Abstract Nouns
5. Compound Nouns
6. Countable Nouns
7. Uncountable Nouns
8. Collective Nouns
9. Material Nouns
10. Possessive Nouns

Proper Nouns

Proper nouns are the direct names of persons, places or things. They are the names you call a person or thing and everyone will know exactly who or what you are talking about. Proper nouns always begin with capital letters.

Examples of **proper nouns** are:

Adam

Suraj

Pia

Kareen

Kapoor

Singh

Prem

Sanu

Manu

Samson

Samuel

Abraham

India

America

England

South Africa

Pakistan

Goa

New Delhi

Argentina

Titanic

Coca-Cola

Pepsi-Cola

Tokyo

January

Monday

September

Dr. Morgan

Russian

The President

Prime Minister

Google

Facebook

Twitter

WhatsApp

Telegram

Atlantic Ocean

Indian Ocean

Red Sea

Sydney

Common Nouns

Common nouns act as the opposite of proper nouns. Common nouns are names you don't bear or share alone. Other persons or things can also be addressed with that name. Example is "boy." Even though someone is a boy, the word "boy" can be used for other boys also. The same goes for the word "girl." Although a female child is called a "girl", the name is not for her alone; other girls can use the name anytime and any day. The word country is for every country. That means it is common for all countries of the world to call their place a country, isn't it? Yes, it is. That's why we call it common nouns because it is common.

Examples of **Common Nouns** are:

boy

girl

man

woman

city

country

state

village

car

laptop

biscuit

mouse

cat

lion

mountain

building

house

tree

planet

leg

ocean

school

table

knife

bread

chair

mango

lorry

truck

river

sea

flower

fruit

desk

glass

hospital

course

door

farmer

chicken

child

book

adult

company

council

father

mother

brother

sister

uncle

aunt

niece

nephew

friend

Concrete Nouns

Concrete Nouns are objects or things we can see and touch with our hands.

Concrete nouns are often visible and appeal to our five senses.

Examples of Concrete Nouns are:

whale

table

teacher

television

tiger

phone

plane

heart

sand

nose

head

car

bed

pen

pencil

wallet

smoke

book

egg

perfume

belt

newspaper

apple

smoke

ball

radio

shoes

fish

hand

scissors

tree

spoon

fruit

fork

foot

flag

ear

eye

Abstract Nouns

Abstract nouns are things that are real but you cannot touch, smell, taste, see and hear them. That means they could be qualities, ideas, emotions or events. Abstract nouns are the opposites of concrete nouns.

Examples of **abstract nouns** are:

fear

excitement

freedom

pain

beauty

hate

brilliance

indifference

courage

sadness

patience

greed

trust

warmth

peace

satisfaction

pleasure

chaos

happiness

career

childhood

holiday
Christmas
marriage
death
life
past
opportunity
wisdom
despair

Compound Nouns

Some nouns are made up of two or more words. When this is the case, we refer to them as compound nouns. Each of the word in a compound noun has its own separate meaning but when it joins other words, the meaning changes slightly.

Examples of **compound nouns** are:

break + fast = breakfast

bed + room = bedroom

board + room = boardroom

foot + ball = football

air + craft = aircraft

eye + ball = eyeball

ear + ring = earring

wall + paper = wallpaper

hall + way = hallway

pan + cake = pancake

More examples of compound nouns

cowboy

baseball

mealtime

armpit

oatmeal

barnyard

notebook

marketplace

endless
eggplant
railway
catfish
bulldog
heartbeat
eardrum
chairman
teaspoon
tapeworm
seashell
workshop
copycat
chopstick
footprint
worldwide

Countable Nouns

Some objects can be counted. In other words, you can find out how many there are in a group. Whether you find them in a group or in a single form, you can count them and record the number. An example is a pen. You can have one pen, two pens, three pens, four pens, five pens etc. Any object you can count this way is a countable noun.

Examples of **countable nouns** are:

table

chair

pencil

door

window

bag

bottle

book

dog

man

girl

woman

boy

cow

bed

bicycle

soap

watch

knife

hat

car

fan

television

radio

key

banana

basket

bucket

house

boat

Uncountable Nouns

These are things that you cannot count no matter how hard you try.

Uncountable nouns do not go with numbers. This is because they are abstract, that is, you cannot see them even though you know they exist. Other times, you see them but they are too small for you to count.

An example is sugar. You cannot say “There are thirty sugars in the tin.”

Also, you cannot say “I poured four waters into the bucket.” It’s not possible to count sugar and water. This difficulty in counting makes them uncountable nouns.

Examples of **uncountable nouns** are:

rice

sand

flour

knowledge

safety

air

wind

beauty

love

beans

advice

cotton

gasoline

ice

snow
salt
butter
milk

Collective Nouns

Collective nouns are names given to a group of people, places, things, animals or ideas. Examples of collective nouns are pack, choir, flock, herd, team, staff, and crowd.

More examples of collective nouns

For People

a troupe of dancers

a team of players

a panel of experts

a pack of thieves

a gang of thieves

a class of students

a band of musicians

a board of directors

For Animals

a hive of bees

an army of ants

a litter of puppies

a murder of crows

a pack of hounds

a flock of sheep

a flock of birds

a pride of lions

a school of fish
a pack of wolves
a team of horses
a swarm of locusts

For Things

a pair of shoes
a bunch of flowers
a fleet of ships
a forest of trees
a galaxy of stars
a pack of cards
a bunch of keys
a bouquet of flowers
a pack of lies
a wad of notes
a range of mountains
a clump of bushes
a cloud of dust
a collection of coins
a battery of guns
a bowl of rice
a comb of bananas
a bundle of sticks
a bevy of ladies

Material Nouns

These are things from which other things are made. Examples are gold, wood, iron etc.

More **examples of material nouns** are:

air

iron

gold

copper

salt

rain

coal

sand

meat

oil

rubber

perfume

honey

leather

cloth

brick

cement

chalk

butter

Possessive Nouns

Possessive nouns show the owner of something. To form a good possessive noun, add apostrophe (') to the noun before the object that is owned.

For example:

Shiva = Shiva's bag

Kareena = Kareena shoes

John = John's house

Mabel = Mabel's husband

Peter = Peter's boat

More examples of possessive nouns

egg's color

India's Prime Minister

lion's den

frog's croaking

owl's eyes

student's grades

teacher's bag

mother's car

father's money

lawyer's fee

doctor's prescription

today's newspaper

yesterday's troubles

But there are words that end with the letter “s”. You make them possessive nouns by moving the apostrophe (‘) and placing it after the letter “s.”

Examples of plural possessive nouns are:

donors’ blood

teachers’ holiday

Fidelis’ mother

cars’ horn

members’ votes

stars’ sparks

babies’ shoes

markets’ sales

Practice Questions Two

Identify what type of nouns each bolded word belongs to:

1. His **LOVE** for her is strong.
2. **ALCOHOL** is not good for you.
3. Smoking is dangerous to **HEALTH**.
4. Wild **ANIMALS** should not be kept at home.
5. His **CHILDHOOD** was full of sorrow.
6. My **BOOK** is on the table over there.
7. Give me **WATER** to drink.
8. You need extraordinary **COURAGE** to succeed in life.
9. The **PRIME MINISTER** visited the flooded areas.
10. I will travel to **LONDON** next week.

CHAPTER THREE: NAMING WORDS (2)

NOUNS: Gender Category

If you look at people and things around you, you will notice differences based on their nature and the way they look or think. We refer to these differences as gender.

There are four categories of noun gender: Masculine Gender, Feminine Gender, Common Gender and Neuter Gender.

Masculine Gender refers to being male, thinking or acting male in every way. Examples are man, boy, Lord, and King.

Feminine Gender refers to the state of being female, thinking and acting like one in many ways. Examples include queen, mother, and bride.

Common Gender can be either male or female. For example, a child can either be male or female. So are teacher, lawyer and parent.

Neuter Gender is neither male nor female in any way. Examples include pen, table, wall, cup, chair and book.

Masculine and Feminine Gender

These two genders are the most popular. We are going to consider several examples below.

| Masculine | Feminine |
|------------------|-----------------|
| man | woman |
| boy | girl |
| king | queen |
| cock | hen |
| dog | bitch |
| drone | bee |
| father | mother |
| gander | goose |
| brother | sister |
| son | daughter |
| husband | wife |
| bridegroom | bride |
| dad | mom/mum |
| grandfather | grandmother |
| landlord | landlady |
| policeman | policewoman |
| salesman | saleswoman |
| god | goddess |
| monk | nun |
| uncle | aunt |
| wizard | witch |
| czar | czarina |
| signor | signora |

| | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| bullock | heifer |
| nephew | niece |
| hero | heroine |
| sultan | sultana |
| ram | ewe |
| sir | madam |
| bachelor | spinster |
| hart | roe |
| fox | vixen |
| buck | doe |
| stag | hind |
| peacock | peahen |
| tiger | tigress |
| jack | jenny |
| stallion | mare |
| brother-in-law | sister-in-law |
| son-in-law | daughter-in-law |
| widower | widow |

Some words will need “-ess” to form the feminine gender. Examples are given below:

| Masculine | Feminine |
|------------------|-----------------|
| count | countess |
| heir | heiress |
| host | hostess |
| Jew | Jewess |
| lion | lioness |

| | |
|----------|------------|
| priest | priestess |
| giant | giantess |
| duke | duchess |
| waiter | waitress |
| prince | princess |
| steward | stewardess |
| baron | baroness |
| mayor | mayoress |
| patron | patroness |
| master | mistress |
| emperor | empress |
| sorcerer | sorceress |

Practice Questions Three

Change each bolded word to masculine or feminine.

1. The **FATHER** will come and his **SON** home.
2. The **GENTLEMAN** over there is the **BRIDEGROOM**.
3. Her **SON** is more troublesome than her **HUSBAND**.
4. As an **ACTOR**, he took the role of the **PRINCE**.
5. The **MAN** is a **WIDOWER**.
6. His **MISTRESS** is still a **SPINSTER**.
7. The countess has a younger **SISTER**.
8. The **FOX** was killed by a **LIONESSE**.
9. The **MILKMAN** ran when a **DOG** barked.
10. The **SULTAN** became a **MONK**.

CHAPTER FOUR: NAMING WORDS (3)

NOUNS: Singular and Plural

A noun can represent one person or one thing. When it is one person, it is referred to as singular. Two or more persons or things are called plural.

Examples

boy (one boy, that means it is singular)

boys (more than one boy, that means it is plural)

girl (singular)

girls (plural)

cow (singular)

cows (plural)

Some plurals are easy to form (regular noun plurals) while you need to learn and master others (irregular noun plurals). Let's start with the irregular ones.

| Singular | Plural |
|-----------------|---------------|
| man | men |
| woman | women |
| child | children |
| foot | feet |
| tooth | teeth |
| mouse | mice |
| louse | lice |
| datum | data |
| criterion | criteria |

| | |
|------------|-----------|
| stadium | stadia |
| ox | oxen |
| goose | geese |
| phenomenon | phenomena |
| thesis | theses |
| oasis | oases |
| syllabus | syllabi |
| fungus | fungi |
| focus | foci |
| cactus | cacti |
| knife | knives |
| wife | wives |
| half | halves |
| life | lives |
| elf | elves |
| loaf | loaves |
| diagnosis | diagnoses |

Some noun plurals are formed by adding “-s, -es, -ves or -ies” to the root word. Here are examples below:

Singular Plural

| | |
|-------|--------|
| boat | boats |
| house | houses |
| cat | cats |
| river | rivers |
| box | boxes |
| pitch | itches |

| | |
|---------|--------------------|
| wish | wishes |
| bus | buses |
| boy | boys |
| potato | potatoes |
| halo | halos |
| volcano | volcanoes/volcanos |
| proof | proofs |
| cliff | cliffs |
| hoof | hoofs |
| chief | chiefs |
| wife | wives |
| life | lives |
| thief | thieves |
| self | selves |
| knife | knives |
| loaf | loaves |
| lady | ladies |
| baby | babies |
| army | armies |
| city | cities |

Some noun plurals do not change. They are the same as their singular form.

| Singular | Plural |
|-----------------|---------------|
| fish | fish |
| aircraft | aircraft |
| deer | deer |
| sheep | sheep |

| | |
|---------|---------|
| species | species |
| salmon | salmon |
| swine | swine |
| shrimp | shrimp |
| trout | trout |

Plurals for Compound Nouns

Most compound nouns get their plurals by adding “-s” to the root word.

Singular

Plural

man-of-war

men-of-war

coat-of-mail

coats-of-mail

father-in-law

fathers-in-law

mother-in-law

mothers-in-law

brother-in-law

brothers-in-

law

sister-in-law

sisters-in-law

maid-servant

maid-servants

step-son

step-sons

Practice Questions Three

Change the following to plurals:

1. lady
2. baby
3. focus
4. criterion
5. stadium
6. tax
7. mountain
8. day
9. salmon
10. passer-by

Change the following to singular:

10. teeth
11. mice
12. lice
13. loaves
14. oxen
15. children
16. knives
17. trout
18. wolves
19. dwarfs

CHAPTER FIVE: REPLACING NOUNS

Pronouns and Their Uses

Everyone and everything has a name and that name is a noun. When you use someone else's name, you identify that person from among other persons around.

Sometimes, you do not want to mention the person's name many times in your speech. What do you do to avoid that? You use a pronoun to replace the person's name. So after using the person's name once or twice, you replace it with the right pronoun. A male pronoun is used for a male noun; a female pronoun for a female noun.

Examples

James changes to "he";

Sarah changes to "she";

a dog changes to "it."

Examples of pronouns are

I

You

He

She

It

They

We

Us

Them

Her

Him

His

Ours

Theirs

Types of Pronouns

We have eight (8) types of pronouns:

1. Personal Pronouns
2. Relative Pronouns
3. Demonstrative Pronouns
4. Reciprocal Pronouns
5. Indefinite Pronouns
6. Interrogative Pronouns
7. Reflexive Pronouns
8. Emphatic Pronouns

Personal Pronouns

For the effective use of personal pronouns, they are divided into three categories called PERSONS: the person speaking, the person spoken to, and the person spoken about. If you understand this and can recall the pronouns under each category, your use of English will improve greatly.

The persons speaking are referred to as FIRST PERSON personal pronouns: I and We. I is singular, We is plural.

The persons spoken to are referred to as SECOND PERSON personal pronouns: you. You is both singular and plural.

The persons spoken about are referred to as THIRD PERSON personal pronouns: he, she, and they. “He” and “she” are singular, while “They” is plural.

Objective and Subjective Personal Pronouns

There are other ways to use personal pronouns. Students who study English as a second language need to learn how to use them. It will help in speaking and writing correct English.

Objective pronouns are pronouns that act as receivers of the action in a sentence. Every complete sentence has a verb. Verbs are action words, and those actions are performed on someone or something.

For instance:

Aamir waved at me.

In the above sentence, WAVE is the action, and the receiver or object is ME. Therefore, the objective pronoun in the above sentence is ME. Me is an objective pronoun.

Other objective pronouns are:

us

you

us

him

her

it

them

Subjective Personal Pronouns

Subjective pronouns, taken from the word “subject,” are pronouns that refer to the doer or performer of the action in a sentence. Let’s use the same example:

Aamir waved at me.

In the sentence above Aamir is a NOUN, and only PRONOUNS can replace a noun. Since Aamir is believed to be male, the pronoun HE is most appropriate to replace.

So the sentence becomes:

He waved at me.

The doer or performer of the action is HE. Therefore, HE is a subjective personal pronoun.

Other subjective personal pronouns are:

I

She

He

We

They

It

You

Note: Subjective pronouns often come at the beginning of sentences. Since they represent the doer of an action, they often start sentences.

Objective pronouns most times come at the end of a sentence, since they act as receivers of the action in a sentence.

Relative Pronouns

Most books define relative pronouns in ways difficult to understand. To make it easy to grasp, here is a simple and practical definition of relative pronouns:

Relative pronouns are pronouns that introduce words that give more information about the person or thing spoken about in the sentence. In other words, they provide extra details about the situation, nature and condition surrounding the person or thing being discussed in a sentence.

Examples of relative pronouns are: who, whose, whom, which, that.

WHO: it is used for people only

Examples

1. The policeman **who** caught the terrorist was called a hero.
2. The woman **who** saved the child from kidnappers is missing.
3. My neighbor **who** moved in recently is a clergyman.
4. The boy **who** lost his parents came out with flying colors.
5. This is the girl **who** saw the armed robbers.

WHOSE: it is used to show ownership of something

Examples

1. The judge **whose** wife was murdered retired last week.
2. The girl **whose** dress was torn got a new one from the school management.
3. The people **whose** houses were burnt received financial assistance from the Prime Minister.
4. I saw a boy **whose** nose was bleeding.
5. The woman **whose** husband got a promotion bought a new car.

WHOM: it is used to indicate the person being talked about.

Examples

1. The man **whom** I told you about is a good man.
2. Our teacher, **whom** we loved so much, is going on retirement.
3. The girl, **whom** I want to marry, is ill.
4. The boy, **whom** I took care of for five years, is graduating today.
5. The soldier, **whom** many people respected, bought a new house.

WHICH: it is used for animals and non-living things.

Example

1. This is the pen **which** I promised to give to you.
2. The books **which** I gave out were brand new.
3. The buildings **which** were vacant have been rented.
4. The robots **which** were imported from China are working fine.
5. The chairs **which** were made from iron were given away.

THAT: it is used for both people and things.

Example

1. Anybody **that** denies the truth will always be dishonest.

2. This is the bird **that** ate the grains.
3. The cat **that** ran off with the fish was caught.
4. The money **that** my father sent to me was stolen.
5. The water **that** I drank tasted bitter.

Demonstrative Pronouns

Demonstrative pronouns are pronouns that points at the persons or things spoken about. They show the reader or listener the exact position of the objects the sentence is describing. Demonstrative pronouns show whether someone or something is near or far.

Examples of demonstrative pronouns are: this, that, these and those.

This: Used for one person or one object nearby.

That: Used for one person or one object far away.

These: Used for two or more objects nearby.

Those: Used for two or more objects far away.

More examples of demonstrative pronouns

1. This is an interesting book.
(It shows the book is near the person speaking)
2. This is the house I want to live.
(It shows the house is near the person speaking)

3. That is the man who helped me.
(It means the man is far from the person speaking)
4. That is the woman who paid my school fees.
(It shows that the woman is far from the person speaking)
5. These are the oranges I bought this morning.
(It means the oranges are very close to the speaker)
6. These are the kids who lost their bags.
(The sentences indicate the kids are nearby, probably two or five feet away from the speaker)

Can you guess number 7 and 8? Try them.

7. Those are the men who dug the well.
8. Those are the boys who stole the carrots.

Reciprocal Pronouns

Reciprocal pronouns are special pronouns that show that one person or one thing acts on the other. In other words, they show how the action of one affects the other. There are only two reciprocal pronouns: **each other** and **one another**.

Each other: It is used when two persons or two things are involved.

Examples

1. Peter and Mary love each other.
2. The two brothers fought each other for ten years.
3. The two soldiers shot each other and were rushed to the hospital.

One another: It is used when more than two things are involved.

Examples

1. We all should learn to love one another.
2. The neighbors still found it difficult to live in peace with one another.
3. The criminals were all blaming one another.
4. The pirates were fighting one another.

Indefinite Pronouns

Indefinite pronouns are the type of pronouns that refer to anyone or anything. They do not point at specific persons or things, and what they refer to can be anyone or anything.

Some of the common indefinite pronouns are” any, all, anyone, anything, each, everybody, everyone, everything, many, few, none, one, several, some, someone, somebody, nobody, no one.

Examples in sentences

1. Everyone hates Sunny Diallo.
2. Everything goes well for me.
3. Is anybody home?
4. Many people voted in the last elections.
5. Some teenagers never learn any lesson.
6. Nobody came out for the protest.
7. None of us knew he would leave the party early.
8. Each man and each woman needs to speak their mind.
9. Several of the houses burned down during the fire outbreak.

Interrogative Pronouns

Interrogative pronouns are pronouns that introduce questions. They make it easier to form questions. Once you understand how to use them, asking questions of any form becomes easy.

We have five interrogative pronouns: who, whom, what, which, and whose.

However, each of these can take additional words and grow longer.

Who: whosoever, whoever

Whom: whomever, whomsoever

What: whatever, whatsoever

Which: whichever

Whose: whosever

Examples in sentences

1. What would you like to drink?
2. What is your name?
3. What happened here last night?
4. What did you do to her?
5. Who are you?
6. Who did he give the credit card?
7. Who sent this parcel to me?
8. Who is the best musician alive?
9. Which of the bags is yours?
10. Which of the buildings was robbed last night?
11. Which of the players scored the qualifying goal?

12. Whose money is missing?
13. Whose bag is this?
Whose car key is on the chair?

Reflexive Pronouns

Some pronouns point back at the person, object or thing speaking in a sentence.

Examples of reflexive pronouns are: myself, yourself, himself, herself, itself, themselves, ourselves, yourselves.

Do you still remember the lesson on subjective and objective pronoun?

You use reflexive pronouns when the subject and object of the sentence is the same person. In other words, use reflexive pronouns when the action in the sentence affects the same person.

1. I see myself in the mirror.
2. You see yourself in the mirror.
3. He sees himself in the mirror.
4. She sees herself in the mirror.
5. We see ourselves in the mirror.
6. They see themselves in the mirror.
7. You see yourselves in the mirror.
8. It sees itself in the mirror.

Intensive Pronouns

Intensive pronouns are words that show how intense someone or something is. In other words, they try to make someone or something to have a lasting effect on the mind. Another name for intensive pronoun is emphatic pronoun. It tries to place emphasis on the nouns or pronouns in sentences.

Intensive pronouns have the same word list as reflexive pronouns. The only difference is the where they appear in sentences. Some examples will help you understand the difference.

yourself

myself

himself

herself

themselves

itself

ourselves

yourselves

These are intensive pronouns but they are also reflexive pronouns. The only difference is how they are used in sentences.

Differences between Intensive and Reflexive Pronouns

Intensive pronoun: I myself did the job

Reflexive pronoun: I did the job myself.

Intensive pronoun: He himself pulled the trigger.

Reflexive pronoun: He pulled the trigger himself.

Intensive pronoun: We ourselves know the truth.

Reflexive pronoun: We know the truth ourselves.

Intensive pronoun: You yourselves made the same mistake.

Reflexive pronoun: You made the same mistakes yourselves.

Intensive pronoun: She herself made the matter worse.

Reflexive pronoun: She made the matter worse herself.

Intensive pronoun: You yourself did not call me.

Reflexive pronoun: You did not call me yourself.

Intensive pronoun: They themselves saw what happened.

Reflexive pronoun: They saw what happened themselves.

Practice Questions Four

Choose the correct pronoun to fill the blank spaces

1. _____ people over there are looking for you.
 - A. That
 - B. Those
 - C. This
2. Is ___ thing here yours?
 - A. that
 - B. these
 - C. this
3. Please, I need one of _____.
 - A. That
 - B. This
 - C. Those
4. _____ are looking really great.
 - A. That
 - B. These
 - C. This
5. He always talks to _____.
 - A. ourselves
 - B. myself
 - C. himself
6. Prem likes to repair his car _____.
 - A. ourselves
 - B. myself
 - C. himself
7. Of course, she can do it _____.
 - A. himself

B. herself

C. sheself

8. My wife and I waved to _____.

A. ourselves

B. each other

C. one another

9. The three workers shouted at _____.

A. one another

B. themselves

C. each other

10. We should learn to love _____.

A. one another

B. themselves

C. each other

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