

Grammar Lesson 3
Basic Pronouns

A pronoun is a word used in place of one or more nouns or pronouns.

Ex: *Personal Pronouns refer to people (the * indicates that it is also possessive)*

	Singular Pronouns	Plural Pronouns
First Person	I, me, my*, mine*	we, us, our*, ours*
Second Person	you, your*, yours*	you, your*, yours*
Third Person	he, him, his*, she, her, hers*, it, its*	they, them, their*, theirs*

Ex: *Reflexive and Intensive Pronouns refer back to someone*

First Person	Myself, ourselves
Second Person	Yourself, yourselves
Third Person	Himself, herself, itself, themselves

Ex: *Indefinite Pronouns refer to unspecified people or things (These are just some of the most common ones. Note the “body,” “one” and “thing” endings that many of them have)*

all	another	any	anybody	anyone	anything	both
each	each other	either	everybody	everyone	everything	few
many	more	most	much	neither	nobody	none
no one	nothing	one	other	several	some	somebody
someone	something					

Ex: Sentences with pronouns

I thought you said that everybody would help out with it.
Last spring, I visited my relatives.
She is herself again.

An antecedent is the word that the pronoun is in place of or that it refers to.

Ex: In the following examples, the antecedents have been underlined, showing what the bold-faced pronouns are referring back to.

When Kelly saw the signal, **she** pointed **it** out to Enrique.
Lee and Pat went fishing. **Each** caught two fish.
Catherine told **her*** father that **she** would be late. (*some people would call this an adjective instead of a pronoun because of how it's being used to describe “father.” It is a possessive pronoun.)
Juan wrote **himself** a note.

NOTE: Sometimes a pronoun can act as an adjective. If it is in place of a noun, it is being used as a pronoun. If it is used to describe a noun, it is acting as an adjective.

Ex: Look in both cabinets. (adjective-- “both” describes which cabinet)

Both contain winter clothing. (pronoun-- it is in place of the word “cabinets”)

Each player took one cap. (adjectives-- “each” describes which player and “one” describes how many caps)

Each took one. (pronouns-- “each” is in place of players and “one” is in place of caps)

Directions: First circle the pronouns in each sentence. Then underline the antecedent for each pronoun (though some pronouns may actually share pronouns). Finally, draw an arrow from the pronoun to the antecedent it refers to. If there is no clear antecedent for a pronoun, write the word "unknown" above that pronoun. However, be aware that some pronouns may have antecedents that are in previous sentences, requiring you to draw an arrow between two sentences. The numbers at the end of each sentence tell the number of *pronouns* in each sentence. The number of antecedents will vary; in other words, there may not be the same number of antecedents as pronouns, as some pronouns will share antecedents and/or the antecedent may be in a previous sentence. The line separating numbers 10 and 11 is there only to mark a change in the reading passage.

Example: When the luggage cart fell on its side, the bags and their contents scattered everywhere. (2)

1. The passengers scrambled to find their luggage and even got on hands and knees to pick up their belongings. (2)
2. In no time, the travelers found themselves quibbling. (1)
3. One person shouted, "The brown bag belongs to me!" (1)
4. "But it has my name on it," a different man replied. (3)
5. "Are you sure the blue socks are yours?" asked another traveler. (2)
6. "Because I have a pair just like them," he continued. (3)
7. A young couple asked, "Who owns a pink and yellow shirt?" (1)
8. "Because this definitely isn't our shirt," they said. (2)
9. "Those are the birthday presents I bought for a friend of mine!" yelled an angry man at a woman as she was picking up boxes. (4)

10. As a crowd of people gathered, some just laughed to themselves, but several offered to help. (3)
11. The British explorer Sir Richard Burton himself wrote many books about his adventures in Africa. (2)
12. We watched the movie about Robert O'Hara Burke's trip across Australia in the 1800s. (1)
13. Queen Isabella of Spain herself gave approval for the famous voyages of Christopher Columbus. (1)
14. Matthew Henson prided himself on being part of the first expedition to reach the north pole. (1)
15. He wrote *A Negro Explorer at the North Pole*, a book about his expeditions with Commander Robert E. Peary. (2)
16. I myself just read about the Dutch explorer Abel Tasman's voyages on the South Seas. (2)
17. Lewis and Clark surely considered themselves lucky to have Sacagawea, a Shoshone woman, as their guide. (2)
18. President Thomas Jefferson sent them to explore the land west of the Mississippi River. (1)
19. Do you think the Spanish explorer Francisco Coronado really pictured himself finding the Seven Cities of Gold? (2)
20. Our teacher told us about Samuel de Champlain's founding of the colony of Quebec. (2)