**Pronouns**

Pronouns are used in place of nouns to avoid repetition and make sentences easier to understand.

**Types of Pronouns**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Subject | Object |
| Singular first person | *I* | *me* |
| Second person | *you* | *you* |
| Third person | *he/she/it* | *him/her/it* |
| first person  Plural second person  third person | *we*  *you*  *they* | *us*  *you*  *them* |

1. ***Personal pronouns***

A Form

The old form of the second person singular is: *thou* (subject) *thee* (object)

B *Use of subject and object forms*

1 you and **it** present no difficulty as they have the same form for subject and object:

*Did you see the snake? ~ Yes, I saw it and it saw me. ~ Did it frighten you?*

*2* First and third person forms (other than it) (a) **I, he, she, we, they** can be subjects of a verb:

/ *see it. He knows you. They live here.* or complements of the verb **to be:** *It is I.*

Normally, however, we use the object forms here:

*Who is it? ~ It's me.*

*Where's Tom? ~ That's him over there.*

But if the pronoun is followed by a clause, we use the subject forms:

*Blame Bill! It was he who chose this colour.*

(b) **me, him, her, us, them** can be direct objects of a verb:

/ *saw her. Tom likes them.* or indirect objects:

*Bill found me a job. Ann gave him a book.*

or objects of a preposition: *with him for her without them to us*

* **The position of pronoun objects**

A An indirect object comes before a direct object:

/ *made Ann/her a cake. I sent Bill the photos.*

However, if the direct object is a personal pronoun it is more usual to place it directly after the verb and use to or **for:**

/ *made it for her. I sent them to him.*

The position rule does not apply to **one, some, any, none etc.:**

*He bought one for Ann* or *He bought Ann one.*

*He gave something to Jack* or *He gave Jack something.*

B Pronoun objects of phrasal verbs

With many phrasal verbs a noun object can be either in the middle or at the end:

*Hand your papers in/Hand in your papers.*

*Hang your coat up/Hang up your coat.*

*Take your shoes off/Take off your shoes.*

A pronoun object, however, must be placed in the middle:

*hand them in hang it up take them off* ;

* **Uses of it**

A it is normally used of a thing or an animal whose sex we don't know, and sometimes of a baby or small child:

*Where's my map? I left it on the table. Look at that bird. It always comes to my window. Her new baby is tiny. It only weighs 2 kilos.*

B it can be used of people in sentences such as: ANN (on phone): *Who is that/Who is it?* BILL: *It's me. Is that*

*Tom over there? ~ No, it's Peter.*

C it is used in expressions of time, distance, weather, temperature, tide:

*What time is it? ~ It is six.*

*What's the date? ~ It's the third of March.*

*How far is it to York.'' ~ It is 400 kilometres.*

*How long does it take to get there? ~ It depends on how you go.*

*It is raining/snowing/freezing. It's frosty. It's a fine night.*

*It's full moon tonight. In winter it's/it is dark at six o 'clock.*

*It is hot/cold/quid/noisy in this room.*

*It's high tide/low tide.* Note also:

*It's/It is three years since I saw him =*

*I haven't seen him for three years.*

D Introductory it

1 it can introduce sentences of the following type ('cleft sentences'):

*It was \Peter who lent us the money,* (not Paul)

*It's* '*today that he's going,* (not tomorrow)

it is used even with a plural noun:

*It's ^pilots that we need, not ground staff.*

2 When an infinitive is subject of a sentence, we usually begin the sentence with it and put the infinitive later; i.e. we say:

*It is easy to criticize* instead of *To criticize is easy.*

*It is better to be early* instead of *To be early is better.*

*It seems a pity to give up now* instead of *To give up now seems a pity.*

3 it can be used similarly when the subject of a sentence is a clause. It would be possible to say:

*That he hasn 't phoned is odd.*

*That prices will go up is certain.* But it would be much more usual to say:

*It's odd that he hasn't phoned.*

*It's certain that prices will go up*

4 it also acts as a subject for impersonal verbs:

*it seems it appears it looks it happens*

1. ***Possessive pronouns***

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Possessive adjectives | Possessive pronouns |
| *my*  *your*  *his/her/its*  *our*  *your*  *their* | *mine*  *yours*  *his/hers*  *ours*  *yours*  *theirs* |

Note that no apostrophes are used here. Students should guard against the common mistake of writing the possessive its with an apostrophe. *it's* (with an apostrophe) means *it is.*

* Possessive pronouns replacing possessive adjectives + nouns

A *This is our room* or *This (room) is ours.*

*This is their car. That car is theirs too. You 've got my pen. You 're using mine. Where's yours?*

B The expression **of mine** etc. means 'one of my' etc.: *a friend of mine* = *one of my friends a sister of hers = one*

*of her sisters*

1. ***Demonstrative pronouns***

***This*** and ***these*** refer to things that are nearby in space or time, while ***that*** and ***those*** refer to things that are farther away in space or further away in time. For example:

* "**This** is the dress I will wear; **that** is the one I wore yesterday."
* "**That** is not true."
* "Please pay for **those**."

There is considerable overlap between the determiner class and the subclass of pronouns. Many words can be both:

Pronoun Determiner

This is a very boring book This book is very boring

That's an excellent film That film is excellent

As being shown, determiners always come before a noun, but pronouns are more independent . They function in much the same way as nouns, and they can be replaced by nouns in the sentences above:

This is a very boring book ~Ivan hoe is a very boring book

That's an excellent film ~Witness is an excellent film

On the other hand, when these words are determiners,they cannot be replaced by nouns:

This book is very boring ~\*Ivanhoe book is very boring

That film is excellent ~\*Witness film is excellent

The personal pronouns (I, you, he, etc) cannot be determiners. This is also true of the possessive pronouns (mine, yours, his/hers, ours, and theirs).

1. ***Reflexive pronouns***

A These are: **myself, yourself, himself, herself, itself, ourselves,yourselves, themselves.** Note the difference between the second person singular **yourself,** and the second person plural **yourselves.** The indefinite reflexive/emphasizing pronoun is oneself.

В **myself, yourself** etc. are used as objects of a verb when the action of the verb returns to the doer, i.e. when subject

and object are the same person:

/ *cut myself. He can't shave himself.*

*It is not always easy to amuse oneself on holiday.*

*Tom and Ann blamed themselves for the accident.*

*This refrigerator defrosts itself.*

Note the change of meaning if we replace the reflexive pronoun by the ***reciprocal pronoun*each other:**

*Tom and Ann blamed each other.* (Tom blamed Ann and Annblamed Tom.)

С myself, yourself etc. are used similarly after a verb + preposition:

*He spoke to himself. Did she pay for herself?*

*Look after yourself. Take care of yourselves.*

*I'm annoyed with myself. He sat by himself,* (alone)

*She addressed the envelope to herself.*

But if the preposition indicates locality, we use the ordinary, not the reflexive, pronouns:

*Did you take your dog with you?*

*They put the child between them.*

*Had he/Did he have any money on him?*

**Note: *Intensive pronouns*** are identical in form to reflexive pronouns, however, ***Intensive pronouns(emphaticpronouns***) are used to emphasize their antecedent. For example:

* "I **myself** find pronouns fascinating."
* "They **themselves** think everyone should know about pronouns."
* "You **yourself** should tell everyone how great pronouns are."

1. ***Relative Pronouns***

Form

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Subject | Object | Possessive |
| For Persons | Who  that | Whom/who  that | whose |
| For Things | Which  that | Which  that | Whose/ of which |

A Subject: **who** or **that who** is normally used:

*The man who robbed you has been arrested.*

*The girls who serve in the shop are the owner's daughters.*

*Only those who had booked in advance were allowed in.*

*Would anyone who saw the accident please get in touch withthe police?*

B Object of a verb: **whom or who or that**

The object form is **whom,** but this is considered very formal. In spoke , English we normally use **who** or **that (that**

being more usual than who), and it is still more common to omit the object pronoun altogether:

*The man whom I saw told me to come back today* or *The man who I saw* ... or *The man that I saw* ... or

*The man I saw . . .* (relative pronoun omitted)

*The girls whom he employs are always complaining about their salary*

*The girls who he employs* ... or *The girls that he employs …*or *The girls he employs . . .*

CPossessive :**whose** is the only possible form:

*People whose rents have been raised can appeal. The film is about a spy whose wife betrays him.*

D**whoever, whichever, whatever, whenever, wherever, however**These have a variety of meanings and can introduce relative and other clauses.

**Note:**The pronouns ***who***, ***whom***, ***which***, and ***what***are also referred to as ***Interrogative pronouns;*** they are used to ask questions. ***who*** and ***whom*** are used to refer to people, while ***which*** is used to refer to things and animals.***Who*** acts as the subject, while ***whom*** acts as the object. For example:

* "**Which** is the best restaurant?"
* "**What** did he tell you?"
* "**Whom** should we invite?"

1. ***Indefinite pronouns***

Indefinite pronouns refer to an identifiable, but not specified, person or thing. The following are common indefinite pronouns: ***all***,***another***,***any***,***anybody***,***anyone***,***anything***,***each***,***everybody***,***everyone***,***everything***,***few***,***many***,***nobody***,***none***,***one***,***several***,***some***,***somebody***, and ***someone***. For example:

* "**Everybody** got lost on the way there."
* "**Somebody** forgot to bring the map."
* "No wonder so **few** showed up."

**References**

Hewings, M. (1999). Advanced Grammar in Use. Cambridge University Press.

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