

What Are Pronouns?

Pronouns are words used in the place of nouns. We often use them to avoid repeating the nouns in sentences.

Different types of pronouns

1. Personal pronouns

Examples: *I, you, he, she, it, they, we*

2. Possessive pronouns

Examples: *mine, yours, his, hers, theirs, ours*

3. Relative pronouns

Examples: *that, which, who, whom, whose*

4. Demonstrative pronouns

Examples: *this, that, these, those*

5. Reciprocal pronouns

Examples: *each other, one another, each other's, one another's*

6. Emphatic and reflexive pronouns

Examples: *myself, yourself, himself, herself, itself, yourselves, ourselves, themselves*

7. Indefinite pronouns

Examples: *anyone, anything, each, everyone, everything, everybody, few, many, none, someone*

8. Interrogative pronouns

Examples: *what, which, whom, whose, where, when, why, how*

Without pronouns, we would have to use the nouns repeatedly, and that would make our writing or reading repetitive.

For example, consider this description about Teddy.

Teddy is a good boy. Teddy had Teddy's breakfast. Teddy went to school. Teddy did homework.

The noun *Teddy* has been repeated multiple times, making the text repetitive.

First-, Second-, and Third-person Pronouns

First-, second-, and third-person are ways of describing points of view.

1. The **first-person** point of view

When we talk about ourselves, our opinions, and the things that happen to us, we generally speak in the **first person**. Example: (i) **I** want an ice cream (ii) **We** want an ice cream.

Examples of first-person pronouns include:

| | Singular | Plural |
|------------|---------------------|--------------------------|
| 1st person | I, me, mine, myself | we, our, ours, ourselves |

I asked **my** mother to help **me** bake some cookies for **our** friends and relatives. **We** packed the cookies nicely and sent them to all **our** relatives and friends. **Our** loved ones were very happy with our gesture, and I felt proud of **myself** as the idea was **mine**. Some neighbors sent **us** Christmas cookies bought from bakeries, but **we** thought that **ours** tasted better as they were homemade.

2. The **Second-person** point of view

The **second-person** point of view refers to the person or people being addressed.

Example:

(i) **You** were late for the play .

(ii) The bouquet is made of flowers that were plucked from **your** garden.

Examples of second-person pronouns include:

| Singular & Plural | |
|-------------------|----------------------------|
| 2nd person | You, your, yours, yourself |

Before **you** all leave for **your** vacation, please lock **your** doors properly. I will not enter **your** rooms in **your** absence. The valuables in the rooms are **yours** and are **your** responsibility. If something goes missing from **your** room, only **you** are to be blamed for it.

3. The **third-person** point of view

The **third-person** point of view refers to the person (or people) being talked about

Example:

(i) Addie used **her** piggy bank money to buy **herself** a new barbie.

(ii) All the students roared with excitement as **they** came to know of **their** upcoming school trip.

Examples of third-person pronouns include:

| | Singular | Plural |
|------------|---|---------------------------------------|
| 3rd person | he, she, it, him, her, hers, his, its, himself, herself, itself | they, them, their, theirs, themselves |

They have been married for 11 years. **It** is a beautiful relationship. **It** is their love that keeps their relationship beautiful. **He** bought a car for **her**, and **she** bought a laptop for **him** on their 11th anniversary. **They** are a happy couple. Everybody at the party was happy for **them**.

In the given sentences, find the pronouns in each sentence and circle them. Also, mention if the sentences are written in the first-, second-, or third-person. The first sentence has been done for you.

1. Jennifer is in her room as she wants to read her book sitting on her chair.

Third-person

2. John visited his grandma, who lives in his neighborhood.

3. I cook dinner for my kids every day as they do not like junk food.

4. We are hoping to go to our aunt's place this summer.

5. Maggie will share pasta with her friends.

6. You are going to hurt her if you jump on the bed.

7. If you all want lemonade, squeeze in the lemons, and add water and sugar.

8. Joseph and Mary wanted to buy food for their fish.

9. My dog and I love eating cookies.

10. His mother got him a new laptop.