



WRITING CENTRE

A pronoun is a word used in place of one or more than one noun. It may stand for a person, place, thing, or idea. There are many different kinds of pronouns.

PERSONAL PRONOUNS

Subjective

I
you
he
she
it
we
they

Objective

me
you
him
her
it
us
them

Possessive

my, mine
your, yours
his
her, hers
its
our, ours
their, theirs

SUBJECTIVE & OBJECTIVE PRONOUNS

Subjective pronouns are used as subjects, and **objective pronouns** are used as objects.

Examples:

They are getting tired.	(They is the subject of the sentence)
The clerk gave the forms to me.	(me is an object; clerk is the subject)
She will leave tomorrow.	(She is the subject of the sentence)
The boss gave her a raise.	(her is an object; boss is the subject)

POSSESSIVE PRONOUNS

Like nouns, **possessive pronouns** can be used to indicate possession. Do not use an apostrophe with possessive pronouns.

When used in a sentence, a pronoun must agree in number and gender with the word that it refers to.

Examples:	Singular	Brad brought his guitar. Ann has her lunch.
	Plural	Jamie and Rebecca forgot their books.
	Singular	The dog is missing its collar.

INTENSIVE/REFLEXIVE PRONOUN

Some of the pronouns in the personal pronouns list can be combined with -self or -selves: yourself, myself, herself, himself, ourselves.

Reflexive pronouns refer back to the subject of a sentence.

Examples: I gave myself plenty of time to get to work.
You should let yourself into the house.
Jim bought himself a shirt.

Intensive pronouns are the same words used to emphasize the subject of the sentence. Intensive pronouns usually appear right near the subject of the sentence.

Examples: I myself am sick of the heat.
You yourself are responsible for this mess!
The president himself appeared at the rally.

Intensive and reflexive pronouns must refer to a previous noun or pronoun and agree in number with the words that they refer to.

INTERROGATIVE PRONOUNS

Interrogative pronouns (who, whom, what, which, whose) introduce questions. The interrogative pronoun represents the thing that we don't know (what we are asking the question about).

The interrogative pronouns who and whom are also relative pronouns (they introduce dependant clauses). Sometimes it seem difficult to know when to use who (and whoever) and whom (and whomever). The key is to use who when the word serves as the subject of a sentence and to use whom when the word does not serve as the subject.

Examples:

A child who is crying can be distracting. (who is the subject of the clause "who is crying")

Who wants to go to the store? (who is the subject of the sentence)

Whom did you ask to bring the cake? We didn't know whom to call? (In these two examples, the whom does not serve as the subject of either sentence.)

DEMONSTRATIVE PRONOUNS

Demonstrative pronouns (this, that, these those) represent a thing or things. They are either singular or plural.

Examples:	<i>Singular</i>	This book is hers. That is a big spider.
	<i>Plural</i>	These books are theirs. Those spiders are huge.