

Pronouns

A **pronoun** is a word used in place of a noun. Some examples are *I, you, he, she, it, we, they, his, hers, her, its, me, myself, us, yours*, and so on.

Without pronouns: Kevin said Kevin would be going to Kevin's grandmother's house this weekend.

With pronouns: Kevin said **he** would be going to **his** grandmother's house this weekend.

758.1 Antecedents

An antecedent is the noun that the pronoun refers to or replaces. All pronouns (except interrogative and indefinite pronouns) have antecedents. (See page 536.)

Jamal and Rick tried out for the team, and **they** both made **it**.
(*They* refers to *Jamal* and *Rick*; *it* refers to *team*.)

NOTE Pronouns must agree with their antecedents in number, person, and gender.

Types of Pronouns

There are several types of pronouns. The most common type is the personal pronoun. (See the chart on page 762.)

758.2 Personal Pronouns

A personal pronoun takes the place of a specific person (or thing) in a sentence. Some common personal pronouns are *I, you, he, she, it, we, and they*.

Suriana would not like to live in Buffalo, New York, because **she** does not like snow.

758.3 Relative Pronouns

A relative pronoun is both a pronoun and a connecting word. It connects a dependent clause to an independent clause in a complex sentence. Relative pronouns include *who, whose, which, and that*. (See 740.6.)

Buffalo, **which** often gets more than eight feet of snow in a year, is on the northeast shore of Lake Erie.

The United States city **that** gets the most snow is Valdez, Alaska.

758.4 Interrogative Pronouns

An interrogative pronoun helps ask a question.

Who wants to go to Alaska?

Which of the cities would you visit?

Whom would you like to travel with?

What did you say?

Pronouns . . .

Types of Pronouns

760.1

Demonstrative Pronouns

A demonstrative pronoun points out or identifies a noun without naming the noun. When used together in a sentence, *this* and *that* distinguish one item from another, and *these* and *those* distinguish one group from another. (See page 762.)

This is a great idea; **that** was a nightmare.

These are my favorite foods, and **those** are definitely not.

NOTE When these words are used before a noun, they are *not* pronouns; rather, they are demonstrative adjectives.

Coming to **this** picnic was fun—and **those** ants think so, too.

760.2

Intensive Pronouns

An intensive pronoun emphasizes, or *intensifies*, the noun or pronoun it refers to. Common intensive pronouns include *itself*, *myself*, *himself*, *herself*, and *yourself*.

Though the chameleon's quick-change act protects it from predators, the lizard **itself** can catch insects 10 inches away with its long, sticky tongue.

When a chameleon changes its skin color—seemingly matching the background—the background colors **themselves** do not affect the chameleon's color changes.

NOTE These sentences would be complete without the intensive pronoun. The pronoun simply emphasizes a particular noun.

760.3

Reflexive Pronouns

A reflexive pronoun refers back to the subject of a sentence, and it is always an object (never a subject) in a sentence. Reflexive pronouns are the same as the intensive pronouns—*itself*, *myself*, *himself*, *herself*, *yourself*, and so on.

A chameleon protects **itself** from danger by changing colors.
(direct object)

A chameleon can give **itself** tasty meals of unsuspecting insects. (indirect object)

I wish I could claim some of its amazing powers for **myself**.
(object of the preposition)

NOTE Unlike sentences with intensive pronouns, these sentences would *not* be complete without the reflexive pronouns.

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Types of Pronouns

762.1

Indefinite Pronouns

An indefinite pronoun is a pronoun that does not have a specific antecedent (the noun or pronoun it replaces). (See page 537.)

Everything about the chameleon is fascinating.

Someone donated a chameleon to our class.

Anyone who brings in a live insect can feed our chameleon.

Types of Pronouns

Personal Pronouns

I, me, mine, my, we, us, our, ours, you, your, yours, they, them, their, theirs, he, him, his, she, her, hers, it, its

Relative Pronouns

who, whose, whom, which, what, that, whoever, whomever, whichever, whatever

Interrogative Pronouns

who, whose, whom, which, what

Demonstrative Pronouns

this, that, these, those

Intensive and Reflexive Pronouns

myself, himself, herself, itself, yourself, yourselves, themselves, ourselves

Indefinite Pronouns

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