

# Personal Pronouns

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When *Betsy* came home, *Betsy* saw *Betsy's* mother cooking dinner for *Betsy*.

When *Hunter* went to *Hunter's* baseball game, *Hunter* saw *Hunter's* friend cheering for *Hunter's* team.

How can you improve the two sentences above? What words did you use instead of the noun *Betsy*? Improve the second sentence. What words did you use instead of the noun *Hunter*? It saves much more time, is more convenient and easier to understand what another is saying when we do not have to repeat nouns and use personal pronouns. It is much easier to express our thoughts. Improve the sentences below using other words for those in italics.

*Emily* stood at the door, holding *Emily's* sweater in *Emily's* hand and leaning on *Emily's* cane from *Emily's* dance class. *Emily* asked *Emily's* mother if *Emily's* mother had any more school work for *Emily*. "*Emily* cannot do any more verb conjugations because *Emily* has a sore throat," *Emily* said, "but *Emily* can read." *Casey* looked *Emily* over. Then *Casey* took *Emily* to the kitchen and gave *Emily* a piece of *Casey's* hard candy. Then *Casey* asked *Emily* to do *Casey's* calculus assignment. *Emily* laughingly looked at *Casey*. "*Casey* knows *Emily* does not do calculus yet," said *Emily*.

Words that do the important work of taking the place of nouns in sentences are called pronouns. The word pronoun literally means "for nouns."

**Personal Pronoun Definition:** A pronoun is a word used instead of a noun. Pronoun literally means "for nouns."

Singular Pronouns = I, Thou, He, She, It

Plural Pronouns = We, You, Ye, They

The following list contains many useful pronouns

I	you	thou	he	she	it	we	they	who	which
my	your	thy	his	her	its	our	their	whose	what
mine	yours	thine	him	hers	ours	theirs	whom	that	
me		thee				us	them		

**First Person Pronouns:** I, we

**Second Person Pronouns:** Thou, you

**Third Person Pronouns:** He, she, it

**Rule:** The personal pronoun I must always be written as a capital letter. The names applied to God, as Lord, Almighty, etc., and the pronouns used instead of them, begin with capital letters.

Personal Possessive Pronouns:

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

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**Exercise:** Name the personal pronouns in the following sentences

1. You and I can attend the lecture.
2. Neither he nor you can be present.
3. You and your brother should have been there.
4. They have come to see the park.
5. Henry and I will come to see you.
6. It will rain tomorrow.
7. She had promised to bring the book.
8. Thou shalt not steal.

**Oral Exercise:** Verbally, say the sentences below. Then, identify the pronouns. Many mistakes are made in the use of pronouns. By reading the following sentences frequently, aloud and distinctly, you will become familiar with the correct forms and be more likely to use them when speaking.

1. Who is it? It is he. It is she. It is we. It is they.
2. Who was it? It was I. It was he. It was she. It was we.
3. From whom is it? It is for me. It is for him. It is for her. It is for us. It is for them.
4. To whom was it sent? It was sent to me. It was sent to him. It was sent to her. It was sent to us. It was sent to them.
5. Who is it? It is you and it is I. It is you and I. It is you and he. It is you and she.
6. For whom is it? It is for you and it is for me. It is for you and me. It is for him and me.
7. Who is it? It is I. For whom is it? It is for me.
8. You and I are going downtown to get a package that is waiting for you and me.
9. When you and I are ready to go, Joshua will go with you and me.
10. Whom do you see? For whom is that letter?
11. Who is the sender of it? To whom is it addressed?
12. Let this matter be between you and me.

**Oral Exercise:** Verbally, say the sentences below. Then, identify the pronouns.

1. It was he.
2. It was they.
3. It wasn't she.
4. It isn't I.
5. It is she and we.
6. It was Robert and I.

**Oral Exercise:** Verbally, say the sentences below. Then, identify the pronouns. Practice reading these sentences aloud frequently.

1. If I were he, I should go.
2. If I were they, I should play.
3. If he were not so lazy, he would succeed.
4. If they were my friends, I should be happy.
5. If I were he, he would be I.
6. If I were she, she would be I.
7. If I were you, you would be I.
8. If it were colder, I should go skating.
9. If we were at home, we should be happy.
10. If she were more careful, she would use fewer and's.

**Oral Exercise:** Verbally, finish the sentences below.

1. If I were, \_\_\_\_\_ .
2. If you were, \_\_\_\_\_ .
3. If he were, \_\_\_\_\_ .
4. If she were, \_\_\_\_\_ .
5. If it were, \_\_\_\_\_ .
6. If we were, \_\_\_\_\_ .
7. If they were, \_\_\_\_\_ .

**Compound Personal Pronoun Definition:** A word formed by adding self or selves to a personal pronoun.

Example: myself, thyself, yourself, himself, herself, itself  
ourselves, yourselves, themselves

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