

THE 9 PRONOUN CLASSES

The term **pronoun** covers many words, some of which do not fall easily under the description given in the section What are Pronouns? There are many different kinds of pronouns. In general, these do not cause difficulties for native English speakers. The list below is mainly for reference purposes.

1) Personal Pronouns

These pronouns are used to replace nouns (in either the subjective or objective case).

Singular Subjective	Plural Subjective	Singular Objective	Plural Objective
I	we	me	us
you	you	you	you
he, she, it	they	him, her, it	them

2) Possessive Pronouns

Possessive pronouns are used to show possession. As they are used as adjectives, they are also known as **possessive adjectives**.

Singular Possessive	Plural Possessive	Example:
my	our	Have you seen her book? (In this example, the pronoun "her" replaces a word like "Sarah's".)
your	your	
his, her, its	their	

3) Absolute Possessive Pronouns

These pronouns also show possession. Unlike possessive pronouns (see above), which are adjectives to nouns, these pronouns sit by themselves.

Singular Absolute Possessive	Plural Absolute Possessive	Examples:
mine	ours	The tickets are as good as ours . Shall we take yours or theirs ?
yours	yours	
his, hers, its	theirs	

4) Reflexive Pronouns

A reflexive pronoun ends **...self** or **...selves** and refers to another noun or pronoun in the sentence.

Singular Reflexive	Plural Reflexive	Example:
myself	ourselves	John bakes all the bread himself . (In this example, the reflexive pronoun "himself" refers back to the noun "John".)
yourself	yourselves	
himself, herself, itself	themselves	

5) Demonstrative Pronouns

These pronouns are used to demonstrate (or indicate). **This**, **that**, **these** and **those** are all demonstrative pronouns.

Examples:

This is the one I left in the car.

(In this example, the speaker could be indicating to a mobile phone, in which case, the pronoun "this" replaces the words "mobile phone".)

Shall I take **those**?

6) Indefinite Pronouns

Unlike demonstrative pronouns, which point out specific items, indefinite pronouns are used for non-specific things. This is the largest group of pronouns.

all	few	any	anyone	anything	anybody
both	one	every	everyone	everything	everybody
each	several	none	no one	nothing	nobody
either		some	someone	something	somebody

Examples:

Somebody must have seen the driver leave. (somebody - not a specific person)
 We are **all** in the gutter, but **some** of us are looking at the stars. (by Oscar Wilde)
 I have **nothing** to declare except my genius. (by Oscar Wilde)

7) Interrogative Pronouns

These pronouns are used in questions. Although they are classified as pronouns, it is not easy to see how they replace nouns. **Who**, **which**, **what**, **where** and **how** are all interrogative pronouns.

Example:

Who told you to do that?

8) Relative Pronouns

Relative pronouns are used to add more information to a sentence. **Which**, **that**, **who** (including **whom** and **whose**) and **where** are all relative pronouns.

Examples:

Dr Adam Sissons, **who** lectured at Cambridge for more than 12 years, should have known the difference.

(In this example, the relative pronoun "who" introduces the clause "who studied at Cambridge for 12 years" and refers back to "Dr Adams Sissons".)

The man **who** first saw the comet reported it as a UFO.

(In this example, the relative pronoun "who" introduces the clause "who first saw the comet" and refers back to "the man".)

9) Reciprocal Pronouns

Reciprocal pronouns are used for actions or feelings that are reciprocated. The two most common reciprocal pronouns are **each other** and **one another**.

Examples:

They like one **another**.

They talk to **each other** like they're babies.