

Pronouns: The Rules

Pronouns are words used to replace a noun. Without pronouns, spoken and written English would be very repetitive.

Nicola loves to play golf. She finds it very relaxing.

Sam heard a noise from the cave. There was definitely something inside it.

There are seven different types of pronouns...

Personal Pronouns: The Rules

Personal pronouns represent people, places and things. They refer back to either the object or subject of the sentence. Personal pronouns often signal whether the noun they refer back to is singular or plural and its gender.

him	you
you	T
she	they
me	US
	you she



Possessive Pronouns: The Rules

Possessive pronouns show you the ownership of something. There are not to be confused with possessive apostrophe words. **They don't need an apostrophe**.

mine yours his

hers its ours

theirs

The bike was his.



Relative Pronouns: The Rules

Relative pronouns are the first words used in a relative clause.

that

who

whom

which

whose





The lion held the mouse, which made him nervous.

Reflexive Pronouns: The Rules

Reflexive pronouns reflect back on an earlier noun or pronoun.

myself themselves herself yourself himself ourselves

He taught himself to play the accordion.

'Himself' refers back to the pronoun 'he'.



Interrogative Pronouns: The Rules

Interrogative pronouns are used to ask questions when there is an unknown subject or object.

what who which whose whom Who was that? Whose are those?

Indefinite Pronouns: The Rules

Indefinite pronouns do not refer to any specific person or thing, but still can take the place of a noun.

somebody	someone	nobody	all
something	anybody	nothing	another
anyone	anything	no one	whose
each	many	most	other
some	few	none	such

There isn't anyone at home.

Pronouns: The Tricky Bits

The two most commonly misused personal pronouns are:

me



Me and Danielle worked at the computer.

This sentence is incorrect. Think about it... would 'me worked at the computer' be grammatically correct?

Danielle and I worked at the computer.

'I' is the correct pronoun to use. Always place the other person first.

Pronouns – Quiz Question 1

Underline six pronouns in the following passage.

Bob and Bert went shopping for a camping equipment. They bought a tent for themselves. It came with free sleeping bags. Bob gave his to someone else because he already had one.

Pronouns – Quiz Question 2

Add a possessive pronoun to this sentence:

"You can't play with the train — it's mine "



Pronouns – Quiz Question 3

Rewrite the sentences, replacing the underlined nouns with the correct pronouns.

Sara played Scrabble even though <u>Sara doesn't really like Scrabble</u>.

Sara played Scrabble even though she doesn't really like it.

Some Australian spiders are venomous so be careful not to approach the <u>spiders</u>.

Some Australian spiders are venomous so be careful not to approach them.

Relative pronouns are words like:



who which where why whose that US we

Copy these examples and underline the relative pronoun.

- 1. Mark saw the dentist who said he had beautiful teeth.
- 2. They always go to the same shop which sells the best ice-cream
- 3. I like the red sweets which have the sherbet inside.
- 4. Jack drove the tractor which had the cleanest wheels.
- 5. My mother went back to see the florist who lent her the glass vase.

Insert - 'that', 'whose', 'which', 'who', 'us' or 'we' into these sentences.

- 1. I have a new friend _____ lives down the next street.
- 2. This is the shop _____ sells the best carrots.
- 3. That's the lady _____ sister works at Tesco.
- 4. Jackie owns the horse _____ has the blue saddle.



Answers

- 1. I have a new friend who lives down the next street.
- 2. This is the shop which sells the best carrots.
- 3. That's the lady whose sister works at Tesco.
- 4. Jackie owns the horse that has the blue saddle.

Extension Activity - using 'we' and 'us'

1.	When Jack and I wa	alk in the park, our	
	dog always barks at the squirrels. It		
	makes laugh.	sometimes	
	laugh so much	fall over.	

2. The man down the street shouts at ____ when our football goes onto his grass.

