Personal, Reflexive, and Intensive Pronouns

A personal pronoun refers to the one speaking (first person), the one spoken to (second person), or the one spoken about (third person).

**EXAMPLE** I can give you the telephone number she left.

A reflexive pronoun refers to the subject and is necessary to the basic meaning of the sentence. An intensive pronoun emphasizes its antecedent and is unnecessary to the basic meaning of the sentence.

**REFLEXIVE PRONOUN** Mavis reminded herself to speak slowly and clearly.

**INTENSIVE PRONOUN** Mr. Hogan himself supplied the decorations.

**EXERCISE A** Underline each of the pronouns in the following sentences.

**Example** 1. Jessica wrote a reminder to herself about the due date.

1. If you give it a cracker, the parrot might speak for you.
2. The cat washed itself carefully after it finished eating.
3. The principal herself will be speaking to us today.
4. Justin thanked me for returning the book to him.
5. After she left the astronaut program, Sally Ride became a professor of physics.
6. The director himself said the book was better than the movie.
7. Kevin said he thought the cloud looked like a rocking horse, but I thought it looked like an old oak tree.
8. The sparrow has just finished building a nest for itself.
9. Would you give the message to Marie when you see her?
10. Sharon wanted tamales, but by the time she reached the front of the line, they were gone.

**EXERCISE B** For each of the following sentences, decide whether the underlined pronoun is a personal pronoun, a reflexive pronoun, or an intensive pronoun. Above the word, write **PER** for personal, **REF** for reflexive, or **INT** for intensive.

**Example** 1. Toni Morrison herself will be the speaker.

11. Cesar said he liked that kind of music.
12. Two weeks later, Sarah found herself in Nigeria.
13. Mike’s cat likes to give itself dust baths.
14. Kim Chun recopied the paper and handed it in.
15. The banquet will be attended by the gold medalists themselves.
Demonstrative Pronouns and Relative Pronouns

A *demonstrative pronoun* points out a specific person, place, thing, or idea.

**EXAMPLE** That is the best idea I've heard!

A *relative pronoun* introduces a subordinate clause.

**EXAMPLE** Mr. Chang, who coaches volleyball, is admired by his players.

**EXERCISE A** Underline each of the demonstrative and relative pronouns in the following sentences.

**Example 1.** Are you going to wear these shoes or those?

1. These are wonderful, ripe, juicy grapes.
2. Mrs. Deets is the person to whom you must give the permission slip.
3. The experiment that we conducted in chemistry class was fascinating.
4. Did you hear that?
5. This has been an interesting conversation, but I have to leave now.
6. My aunt Mikki, who is a substitute teacher, worked at my school Monday.
7. The rain, which had been falling all morning, began to let up.
8. That was definitely the best book of the series.
9. The guide, whose eyesight and hearing were very sharp, motioned for the group to halt.
10. The noise that had started so suddenly ended just as quickly.

**EXERCISE B** For each of the following sentences, decide whether the underlined pronoun is a demonstrative pronoun or a relative pronoun. Above the word, write DEM for demonstrative or REL for relative.

**Example 1.** Are those Julio's tennis shoes?

11. This is a wonderful book with clear illustrations.
12. Cynthia, who plays center on the basketball team, is over five feet tall.
13. Isn't that a great song?
14. The snow that fell last night has already melted.
15. Orchids, which come in a variety of colors, can be speckled or streaked.
16. When the governor said this, the secretary laughed.
17. These are beautiful Zuni earrings.
18. The boy whose dog is chasing Sam has gone to get a leash.
19. Leave those on the table for now.
20. Ms. Jackson is a teacher whom the students admire.
Indefinite Pronouns and Interrogative Pronouns

An **indefinite pronoun** refers to a person, place, thing, or idea that may or may not be specifically named.

**Examples:**
- Nobody noticed the sign.
- Does anyone here speak Mandarin?

An **interrogative pronoun** introduces a question.

**Examples:**
- What are your plans?
- Who will design the flyers?

**Exercise A**

Underline the indefinite pronouns and interrogative pronouns in the following sentences. Then, identify the pronouns by writing **IND** for indefinite or **INT** for interrogative above them.

**Example 1.** Neither of the glasses had spilled.

1. Someone has been sitting in my chair!
2. Couldn’t you find anybody?
3. Whose are those shoes?
4. Anyone can whistle.
5. Many of the contestants have finished.
6. No one in the class selected that subject for a research report.
7. Which of your cousins haven’t you talked to yet?
8. I think either of the girls could do the job.
9. What is the title of the next school play?
10. To whom did you address the letter?

**Exercise B**

For each blank in the following sentences, write an appropriate indefinite pronoun or interrogative pronoun. Use a different pronoun for each sentence.

**Example 1.** Which ____________ of the frogs jumped the farthest?

11. Give one copy to ________________ of your classmates.
12. Can ________________ tell me how to get to Madison Street?
13. ________________ of the leaves have already fallen off the tree.
14. ________________ did you find under the desk?
15. ________________ was that new student’s name?
A pronoun is a word that is used in place of one or more nouns or pronouns.

The word or word group that a pronoun stands for is called its antecedent. Sometimes the antecedent is not stated.

**Examples**

After he hit the home run, Joe Thundercloud trotted around the bases and waved to the crowd. [Joe Thundercloud is the antecedent of the pronoun he.]

The doctor said your test results were all normal. [The pronoun your has no antecedent in this sentence.]

**Exercise A**

Underline each of the pronouns in the following sentences.

Example 1. My paper blew away just before I could catch it.

1. When you finish your part of the project, proofread it carefully.
2. After she finished her homework, Jane read two chapters of a novel.
3. Did Manuel paint the set by himself?
4. The three of us always sit at the same table for lunch.
5. Replace the tape in its case when you finish listening to it.

**Exercise B**

Each of the following sentences contains an underlined pronoun. Circle the antecedent of each underlined pronoun.

Example 1. Ms. Griffith offers help when we need it.

6. Salmon are born in freshwater streams, but most salmon spend part of their lives in the ocean.
7. Mother called to the twins and told them dinner was on the table.
8. The ball flew by Mr. LaPorte and just missed him.
9. Kara tapped on the door, but nobody heard her.
10. Whales can't breathe underwater, so they must come to the surface for air.
11. How long has Angela been saving her money?
12. The sea horse wrapped its tail around a piece of seaweed.
13. The players were tired, but they had won the game.
14. Cora found a new lightbulb and installed it.
15. Rachel, please show me your painting.