



## PRONOUNS

Pronouns are words that are used in place of nouns or noun phrases. When a pronoun substitutes for a specific noun or noun phrase, the word or phrase that has been replaced is known as an antecedent. In the sentence below, *the daisy* is the noun phrase, and *it* is the pronoun that replaces it.

- The daisy is a sign of loyal love; **it** also suggests gentleness and innocence.

Some pronouns can be used as articles or subjects, as with *this* in the following sentences.

Pronoun as article → **This** language of flowers was called *floriography* in Victorian times.

Pronoun as subject → **This** is a flower that is commonly called a *daisy*.



There are eight types of pronouns: personal, possessive, reflexive, relative, interrogative, demonstrative, indefinite, and reciprocal. Sometimes, possessive and reflexive pronouns are also described as personal pronouns.

### 3a

## Personal pronouns

A personal pronoun indicates a specific person, place, thing, or idea. Personal pronouns are in nominative (subject) or accusative (object) case, depending on the function of the noun they are replacing. They are also described as singular (one person) or plural (two or more people).

## Personal pronouns

	Subject	Object
1 <sup>st</sup> person singular	I	me
2 <sup>nd</sup> person singular	you	you
3 <sup>rd</sup> person singular	he	him
	she	her
	it	it
1 <sup>st</sup> person plural	we	us
2 <sup>nd</sup> person plural	you	you
3 <sup>rd</sup> person plural	they	them

When a personal pronoun replaces a noun that is functioning as a subject, the pronoun will be in subject case.

Subject → The Victorians had hundreds of meanings for different flowers; **they** used flowers every day to express these feelings, not just on Valentine's Day.

When a personal pronoun replaces a noun that is functioning as a direct object, indirect object, or object of a preposition, the pronoun will be in object case.

Direct object → A Victorian male could woo his love by giving **her** a flower every day.

Indirect object → A Victorian male gave his love not only a flower, but also gave **her** the meaning behind the flower.



Object of a preposition → A Victorian male gave his love not only a flower, but also gave the meaning behind the flower to **her**.

### 3b

## Possessive pronouns

Possessive pronouns indicate a state of ownership or belonging. They can occur in determinative form (before a noun) or in predicative form (after a verb), and they can also be singular or plural.

## DIDST THOU KNOWEST?

Some languages (such as Russian and French) have singular and plural second person pronouns—often used for informal and formal address. But did you know that English had them too? *You* was once the plural (formal) second person pronoun, while *thou* was the singular (informal). This distinction is noticeable in Shakespeare's plays and in the King James Version of the Bible, and it is still maintained in some English dialects.



### Possessive pronouns

	Determinative	Predicative
1 <sup>st</sup> person singular	my	mine
2 <sup>nd</sup> person singular	your	yours
3 <sup>rd</sup> person singular	his	his
	her	hers
	its	its
1 <sup>st</sup> person plural	our	ours
2 <sup>nd</sup> person plural	your	yours
3 <sup>rd</sup> person plural	their	theirs

Determinative → Victorian females gave flowers to **their** loves or friends.

Predicative → I wonder if that flower is **mine**.

Apostrophes are never used with possessive pronouns.

- The daffodil is my favorite flower; **its** petals are always so well formed.



## EXERCISE 1

Directions: Change the determinative pronoun used in the first sentence to a predicative one.

Example: I reminded the clerk that The Face of Flowers was my book. → I reminded the clerk that the book was mine.

1. The animal that is trampling the flowerbed is their dog. →
2. Flower shops usually have a sign with flowers on it, but our shop doesn't. →
3. Her yard was the one everyone was shouting about. →
4. Is that your book about flowers on the counter? →
5. Stop right now! That book you are destroying is my book. →

## 3c

## Reflexive and intensive pronouns

Reflexive pronouns are formed by adding *-self* or *-selves* to a personal pronoun. A reflexive pronoun can be an object (direct object, indirect object, or object of a preposition) or a subject complement.

## Reflexive/intensive pronouns

1 <sup>st</sup> person singular	myself
2 <sup>nd</sup> person singular	yourself
3 <sup>rd</sup> person singular	himself
	herself
	itself
1 <sup>st</sup> person plural	ourselves
2 <sup>nd</sup> person plural	yourselves
3 <sup>rd</sup> person plural	themselves

Direct object → To show that you love **yourself**, you could send flowers!

Indirect object → People can send **themselves** flowers but don't often do so.

Object of a preposition → Nowadays, sending flowers to **oneself** is not common.

Subject complement → My mother is being **herself** when she cries over red roses.

Reflexive pronouns are sometimes called intensive or intensifier pronouns when they are used to emphasize the noun or pronoun they are related to.

- I, **myself**, am allergic to most flowers.
- He brought the flowers **himself** when he was not busy.

## EXERCISE 2

*Directions: Fill in the blanks with the appropriate reflexive pronoun.*

1. The florist wrote \_\_\_\_\_ a reminder about the new order.
2. She \_\_\_\_\_ told me many times that she forgot things without writing reminders.
3. When she gets orders in, she does most of the arrangements \_\_\_\_\_.
4. However, I \_\_\_\_\_ have a great memory especially in the work place.
5. I never have to remind \_\_\_\_\_ with lists or post-it notes.

## 3d

## Relative pronouns

Relative pronouns that introduce dependent relative clauses include *who*, *whom*, *that*, *which*, *whose*, *whoever*, *whomever*, *whichever*, and *whatever*.

- ➔ When florigraphy was at its peak, more than 400 flower language dictionaries, **which** gave a meaning to each flower, were available.



Use *that* to begin relative clauses that are restrictive (see 31d2) and *which* to begin relative clauses that are non-restrictive. When using *which* for a non-restrictive relative clause, be sure to put commas around the entire clause to indicate that it is optional.

Restrictive (essential for sentence meaning) ➔ The flowers **that** I like are often too expensive to buy.

Non-restrictive (not essential for sentence meaning) ➔ I planted day lilies, **which** can come in a variety of colors, last spring.

Some relative pronouns are classified as nominative (subject) and accusative (object) pronouns. Be sure to use subject relative pronouns when replacing a subject noun, and object relative pronouns when replacing an object noun. *Whose* is a relative pronoun that shows possession.

## Relative pronouns

	Subject	Object	Possessive
Personal	who	whom	whose
	whoever	whomever	whose
Non-personal	that	that	

**Subject** relative pronoun ➔ In 1718, Lady Mary Wortly Montagu, **who** had lived in Turkey before then, introduced the language of flowers to Great Britain.

**Helpful  
hint**

To determine whether to use *who* or *whom*, consider the word *who* or *whom* replaces or refers to.

If the noun would function as a subject, use *who*; if the noun would function as an object, use *whom*. Do not be fooled by the placement of the relative pronoun; it's the noun it replaces that matters.

**Subject relative pronoun** → In 1718, Lady Mary Wortly Montagu, **who** (*Lady Mary Montagu is the subject of the inner sentence: Lady Mary Wortly Montagu had lived in Turkey before then*) had lived in Turkey before then, introduced the language of flowers to Great Britain.

**Object relative pronoun** → Lady Montagu, **whom** (*Lady Montagu is the direct object of the inner sentence: her husband had taken Lady Montagu*) her husband had taken to Turkey as part of an ambassador assignment, was enthralled by the language of flowers.

**EXERCISE 3**

*Directions: Fill in the blank with the appropriate relative pronoun.*

1. In Turkey, the Montagu house, \_\_\_\_\_ was filled with flowers, became a symbol of what Lady Montagu wanted to take back to Britain.
2. The Montagu's staff, some of \_\_\_\_\_ came from England, replenished the flowers daily.
3. Floriography, \_\_\_\_\_ is the association of emotions with certain flowers, still exists today.
4. For instance, the black rose \_\_\_\_\_ is in the vase in the story "The Flower Game" represents death, hatred, or revenge.
5. Lady Montagu, \_\_\_\_\_ husband was assigned an important government post, became the more famous of the two.

**Object relative pronoun** → Lady Montagu, **whom** her husband had taken to Turkey as part of an ambassador assignment, was enthralled by the language of flowers.

**Possessive relative pronoun** → Lady Montagu, **whose** husband moved with her to Turkey, brought the language of flowers back to Great Britain.

### 3e Interrogative pronouns

Interrogative pronouns are used to introduce questions. Some of these can also function as relative pronouns, but when they are used as interrogative pronouns, they trigger the use of a question mark.

**Interrogative pronouns** → who, whom, what, which, whose

- What is the name of the Navy plane that carries the president?
- Who is the pilot today?
- Whom did the president recommend?



#### Helpful hint

Note that *who* and *whom* take on the case of the word they are replacing. If the interrogative pronoun is replacing a subject, use *who*, and if it replaces an object, use *whom*.

- Who is the pilot today? (*Frank Smith is the pilot.*)
- Whom did the president recommend? (*The president recommended Frank Smith.*)

### 3f Demonstrative pronouns

Demonstrative pronouns identify, point out, or point to people, places, things, or ideas, usually without naming the noun to which the demonstrative pronoun refers or marks. Demonstrative pronouns can function as noun replacements or as articles/adjectives.

**Demonstrative pronouns** → this, that, these, those

Functioning as article/adjective →

**That** plane is the president's.

Functioning as noun → **This** is the ramp that should be moved to the plane.



3g

## Indefinite pronouns

Indefinite pronouns refer to unknown or unnamed people, places, things, or ideas. Some are singular, some are plural, and some may be used as either. Indefinite pronouns can function as either noun replacements or as determiners/adjectives.

Functioning as article/adjective → **Several** planes can fly the president.

Functioning as noun → **Several** can fly the president.

### Indefinite pronouns

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

3h

## Reciprocal pronouns

Reciprocal pronouns indicate the individual parts of a plural antecedent noun.

**Reciprocal pronouns** → each other, one another

→ The pilot and co-pilot were talking to **each other**.

FOUNTAINHEAD PRESS