



Pronouns

Words that take the place of a noun

Personal Pronouns

- o Personal Pronouns take the place of nouns according to gender, number, case, and person
- o Personal pronouns have to agree with the noun they are replacing – this noun is called the *antecedent*

Pronouns must agree in number and person

1st Person	I	Me
2 nd Person	You	You
3 rd Person singular	He, she, it	He, she, it
3 rd Person plural	They	Them
1 st Person plural	We	Us

Possessive Nouns must be replaced by possessive pronouns

1st Person Possessive singular	My, Mine
1 st Person Possessive plural	Our, ours
2 nd Person Possessive	Your, yours
3 rd Person Possessive singular	His, her, hers, its
3 rd Person Possessive plural	Their, theirs

Examples of Possessives

- o Mary's book = Her book; that book is hers
- o Sandy's and Denny's dog = Their dog; that dog is theirs
- o A piece of candy belonging to me = my candy; it is mine
- o A paper belonging to you = Your paper; it is yours
- o A game belonging to us = Our game; it is ours
- o The computer's mouse = its mouse

Possessive nouns have apostrophes Possessive Pronouns DO NOT

- o Mary's = hers
- o Tom's = his
- o The book's = its
- o Your
- o Their

Time for Practice

- o Take out a sheet of paper and try the following sentences on your own.
- o Choose the correct possessive pronoun

Rewrite these sentences using possessive pronouns

1. That is Sara's dog.
2. That coat belongs to you.
3. That book belongs to me.
4. Mindy's and Michael's mom is pretty.
5. The teacher belonging to us is nice.
6. That belongs to me!
7. That is Alicia's.
8. Tommy's dog bit me.
9. The computer's mouse doesn't work.
10. That belongs to us.

Pronouns must agree in case

- o There are two cases of pronouns – subjective (nominative) and objective
- o Which pronoun you use depends on the part it is playing in the sentence
- o Is the noun you are replacing the subject?
- o Is it a direct object?
- o What if it is a predicate nominative?
- o The pronoun you choose will depend on what function it will have in the sentence.

Personal Pronoun Case

Person	Nominative/Subjective	Objective
1 st Person Singular	I	Me
2 nd Person	You	You
3 rd Person singular	He, she, it	Him, her, it
1 st Person plural	We	Us
3 rd Person plural	They	Them

Nominative/Subjective Case

- o You will use a nominative/subjective case pronoun when you are replacing a noun that is the subject of the sentence or that is the predicate nominative of the sentence.
- o Examples:
- o Sammy bought a bike. He bought a bike.
- o The winner is Mary. The winner is her.

Reminder

- o Remember a predicate nominative is a noun that follows a linking verb that renames the subject.
- o It is one of the four types of complements.

Follows Action Verbs	Follows Linking Verbs
Direct Objects – the object the action is done directly to	Predicate Nominatives – renames the subject after a linking verb
Indirect Objects – receives the direct object	Predicate Adjectives – describes the subject after a linking verb

Nominative/Subjective Case

- o You can **ONLY** use the nominative subjective case if the noun you are replacing is the subject or predicate nominative in the sentence

Objective Case Personal Pronouns

- o **When you are replacing an object in a sentence, you must use an objective case personal pronoun**
- o **You use the objective case when the noun you are replacing is receiving the action or is the object of the preposition**

What are objects?

- o Direct Objects – Follows an action verb – it is the object the action is done directly to
 - o Example: Jim threw the **ball**.
 - o What did he throw?
 - o The **ball** – that is the direct object
- o Indirect Objects – Receives the direct object
 - o Jim threw **Bill** the ball.
 - o Who received the ball?
 - o **Jim** – he is the indirect object
- o Object of the preposition – the noun or pronoun in a prepositional phrase
 - o Example: The squirrel is up the **tree**
 - o Up is the preposition and **tree** is the object of the preposition

If the noun you are replacing is the direct object, indirect object, or object of the preposition you must use an objective case personal pronoun

Person	Nominative/Subjective Case	Objective Case
1 st Person singular	I	Me
2 nd Person	You	You
3 rd Person singular	He, she, it	Him, her, it
1 st Personal plural	We	Us
3 rd Person plural	They	Them

Practice

- o Replace the underlined nouns with the correct pronoun
- o Remember – if the noun is the subject – it will be replaced with the nominative case pronoun
- o If the noun is an object, it will be replaced with the objective case pronoun
- o Diagram the sentence parts if it will help you!

Replace the underlined nouns with
correct pronoun

1. Jim threw the ball to Mary.

2. Sammy and Debbie went skiing.

3. Sally gave Bobby the present.

**4. Marty and Misty went to the ball
game.**

**5. Marty and Sally and Michael went
to the game.**

Me or I – oh my!

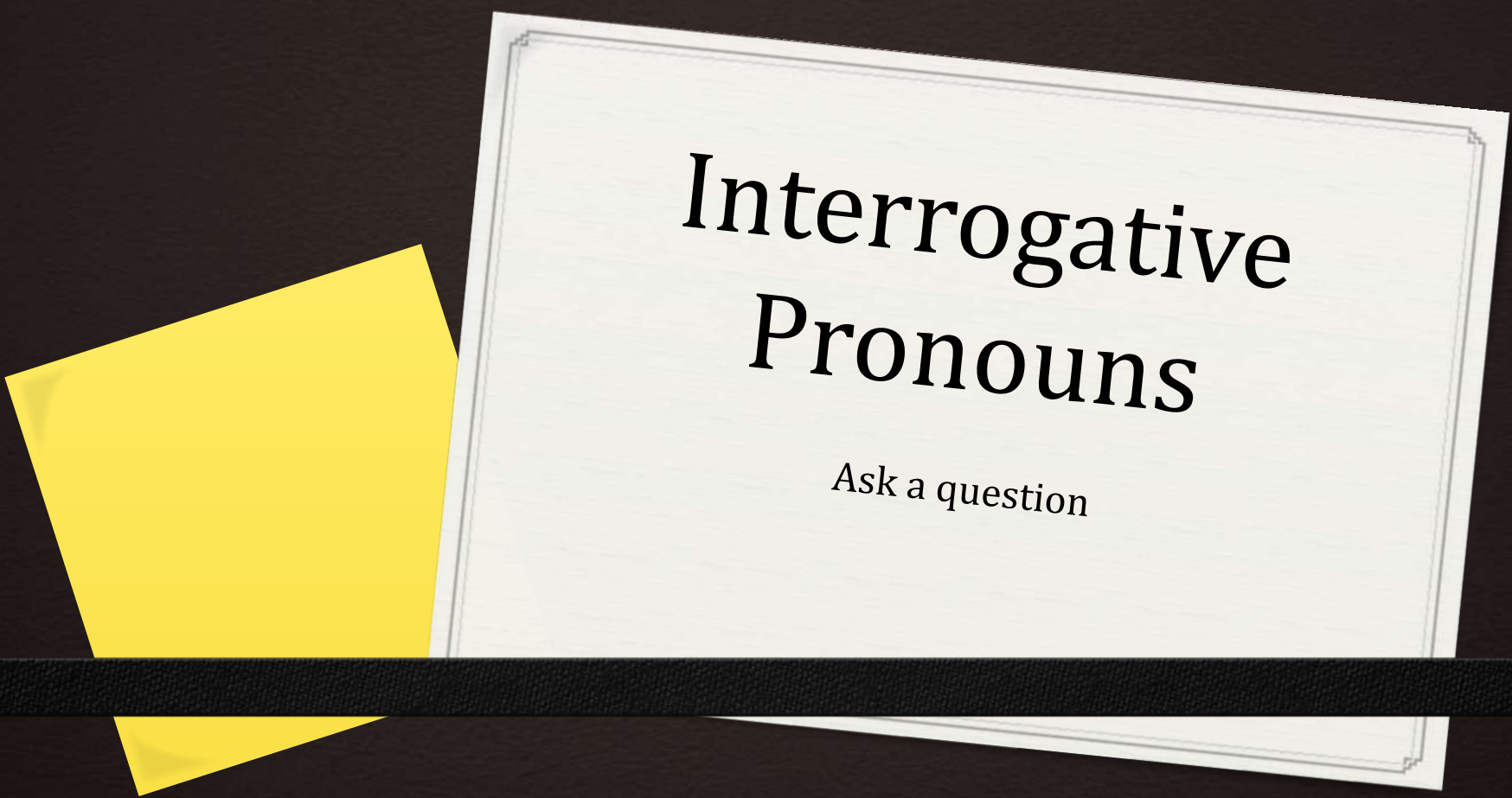
- People often get really confused when using the pronouns me and I
- The rules are the same!
- If it is the subject or predicate nominative, it is I
- If it is the direct object, indirect object, or object of the preposition, you use me
- These may sound wrong to you at first

Trick

- When dealing with a compound subject, isolate the pronoun – making it a singular subject – this will give you the clue
- Example:
 - Marty and (me or I) went to the store.
 - Take away Marty
 - Would you say, “Me went to the store,” or “I went to the store?”
 - I is the subject, so you would say I

Practice – choose me or I

1. My sister and (I, me) went shopping.
2. She is riding home with (I, me).
3. The dancer was (I, me).
4. The teacher gave an A on the project to Jordan and (I, me).
5. Terry, Susie, and (I, me) are going camping.



Interrogative Pronouns

Ask a question

Interrogative pronouns
are used to ask a question

○ They must agree with the noun
they are replacing (person,
thing, possessive, and case)

Interrogative Pronouns

Who is it replacing?	Nominative Case	Objective Case
Person	Who	Whom
Thing	What	
Thing	Which	
Possessive	Whose	

Who or Whom

- o Same rules apply here as for the personal pronouns
- o If you are replacing the subject or predicate nominative in the sentence – use WHO
- o If you are replacing the direct object, indirect object, or object of the preposition – use WHOM
- o Example:
 - o Who took my cookie?
 - o With whom are you going?

Whose

- Whose is another tricky one – not because it's difficult to use, but because of its spelling
- WHOSE not WHO'S
 - Who's is a contraction meaning Who is
 - Whose shows ownership
 - Remember our rule from earlier –
POSSESSIVE PRONOUNS DO NOT USE APOSTROPHES!

Practice

Choose the correct pronoun

1. (Who's or Whose) bicycle is this?
2. With (who or whom) are you working?
3. (Who or whom) is coming to my birthday party?
4. (Whose or who's) that?
5. To (who or whom) is that present for?



Demonstrative Pronouns

Identify or point to nouns

Demonstrative point to nouns or act as determiners

- As pronouns, they identify or point to nouns
 - **That** is incredible!
 - I will never forget **this**!
 - **Such** is my belief.
- As determiners, they modify a noun (which one)
 - **These** [pancakes sitting here now on my plate] are delicious.
 - **Those** [pancakes that I had yesterday morning] were even better.
 - **This** [book in my hand] is well written;
 - **That** [book that I'm pointing to, over there, on the table] is trash.

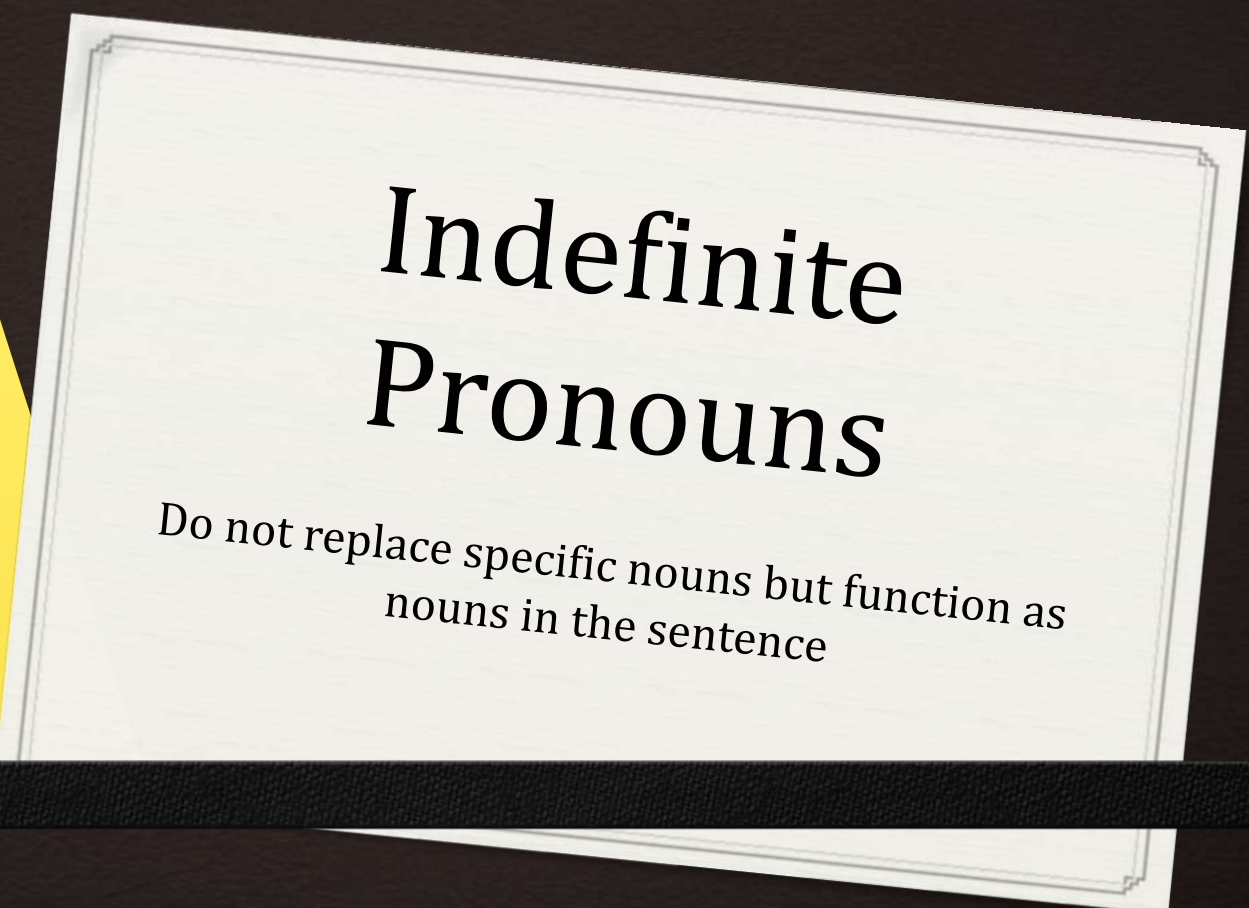
Demonstrative Pronouns List

These, those, this, that, such



Practice – Choose the correct demonstrative pronoun to fill in the blank

1. _____ (the soup in front of you) is really good!
2. _____ (the shoes across the room) really smell bad!
3. _____ (the pizza you just ate) was really greasy.
4. _____ (the way people were just acting) behavior will not be tolerated!
5. _____ (the books in front of you) need to be shelved.



Indefinite Pronouns

Do not replace specific nouns but function as
nouns in the sentence

The problem with indefinite pronouns is they must agree!

- One of the chief difficulties we have with the indefinite pronouns lies in the fact that "everybody" feels as though it refers to more than one person, but it takes a singular verb.
 - Everybody is accounted for. - If you think of this word as meaning "every single body," the confusion usually disappears. The indefinite pronoun *none* can be either singular or plural, depending on its context.
- *None* is nearly always plural (meaning "not any") except when something else in the sentence makes us regard it as a singular (meaning "not one"), as in "None of the food is fresh."
- *Some* can be singular or plural depending on whether it refers to something countable or non-countable.

What are the indefinite pronouns?

**Everybody, anybody, somebody,
all, each, every, everyone, none,
one, enough, few, fewer, less, little,
many, much, several, more, most,
all, both, every, each, any either,
neither, some**

When you are referring to a singular indefinite pronoun

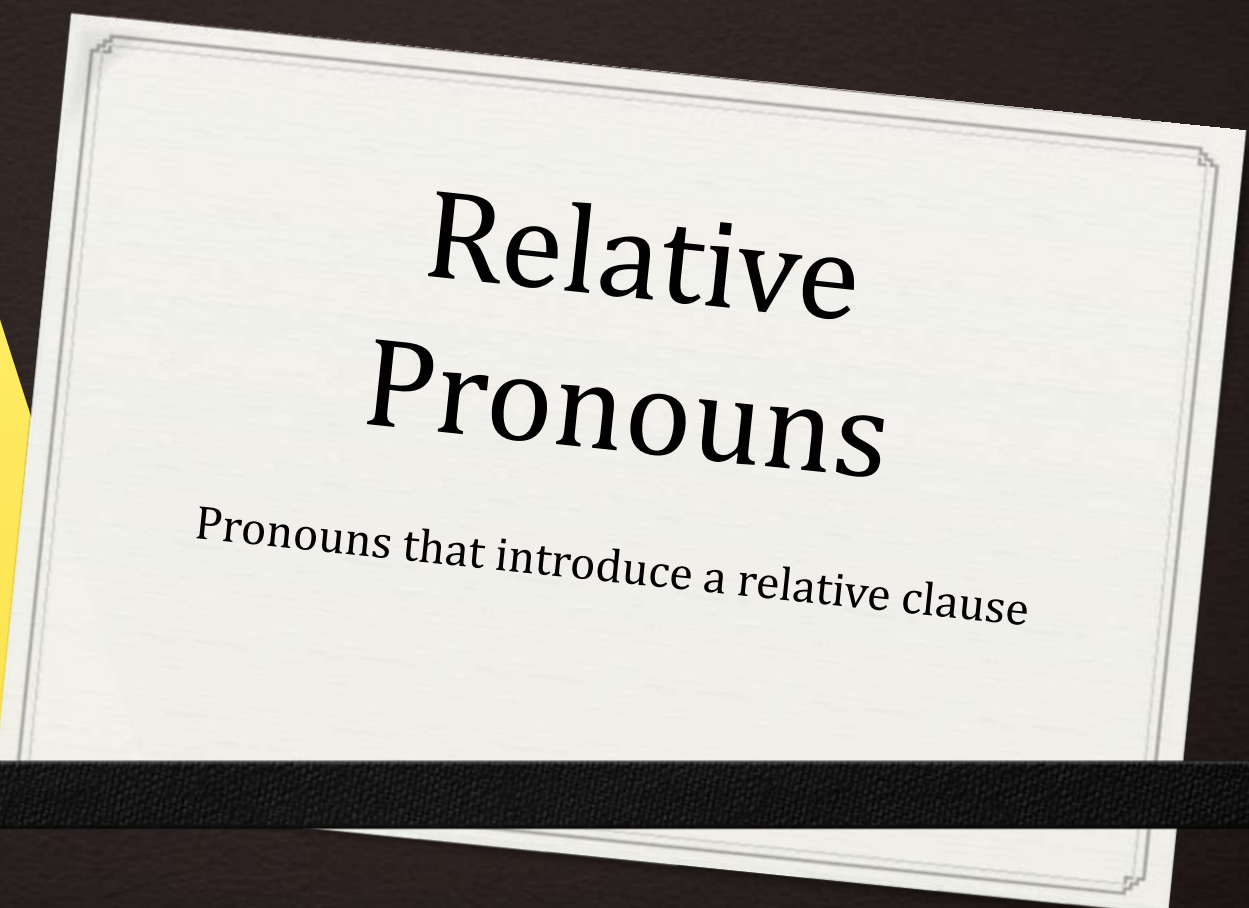
- NEVER use their
- Always use his, her, or his/her
- Example:
 - Each brought his dog to the park.
 - Each brought her dog to the park.
 - Each brought his/her dog to the park.
 - NEVER – Each brought their dog to the park.
 - EACH is singular, so you must use a SINGULAR personal pronoun

When using a singular indefinite pronoun – choose the correct verb

- o Everyone **was** happy. Not –Everyone **were** happy.
- o Some **are** angry. NEVER – Some **is** angry.
- o Subjects and verbs must agree. You must THINK about the subject when using indefinite pronouns – is it singular or plural?

See if you can make the correct choices!

1. Everyone played (their, his) part well.
2. None (was, were) ready for the game.
3. Everybody (is, are) invited.
4. Each player has to do (their, her) best.
5. Few (has, have) ever seen the Loch Ness Monster.
6. Many (say, says) it is a hoax.
7. Neither did (his, their) report.
8. Either (have, has) the ticket.
9. No one ate (his, their) vegetables.
10. Some (believe, believes) in the Loch Ness Monster.



Relative Pronouns

Pronouns that introduce a relative clause

Clauses

A clause in English is a subject and a predicate

Types of clauses

- Independent clause – can stand alone as a sentence
- Subordinate clause – cannot stand alone and begins with a subordinating conjunction
- Relative clause – cannot stand alone and begins with a relative pronoun

Relative Pronouns

Function in Sentence	People	Things/ Concepts	Place	Time	Explanation
Subject	Who, that	Which, that			
Object	That, who, whom	Which, that	Where	When	What, why
Possessive	Whose	Whose, of which			

Relative pronouns

- o Introduce a relative clause
- o Relative clauses cannot stand alone
- o They **are not** separated from the antecedent by a comma
- o The information in a relative clause is crucial for understanding the sentence's meaning, so they cannot be deleted

Examples

- o This is the house **that** had the great Christmas decorations.
- o That is the girl **who** won the competition.
- o He is the man to **whom** I needed to speak.
- o The library did not have the book **that** I wanted.

Don't confuse them with interrogative pronouns

- Interrogative pronouns introduce a QUESTION
- Relative pronouns introduce a relative clause and give important information
 - **Whose** book is this? (Interrogative)
 - That is the man **whose** dog barks all night. (Relative)

Practice – identify the pronouns in the sentence as relative or interrogative

1. He is the boy who won the social studies fair.
2. Who is that girl?
3. The woman to whom you just spoke is my teacher.
4. Which is yours?
5. The team which always wins is my favorite.

Try it on your own for more
practice

○ Write five sentences using
relative pronouns for
homework.