BCA SEM.4 CHAPTER –8

Pronouns are words that take the place of nouns and noun phrases. We often use them to avoid repeating the nouns that they refer to. Pronouns have different forms for the different ways we use them.

PERSONAL PRONOUNS

Personal pronouns are those that refer to the person speaking, the person spoken to and the person spoken of.

We have both **subject pronouns that are used before verbs** and **object pronouns that come after verbs and prepositions**:

Subject pronouns- I, You, He, She, It, We, And They

Object pronouns- me, you, him, her, it, us and them

We use subject pronouns as the **subject** of a [verb](https://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/english-grammar-reference/verbs):

***I******like****your dress.****You******are****late.****He******is****my friend.****It******is****raining.****She******is****on holiday.****We******live****in England.****They******come*** *from London.*

We use object pronouns as the **object** of a [verb](https://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/english-grammar-reference/verbs):

Can you ***help*** ***me***, please?I can ***see*** ***you***.She doesn't ***like*** ***him***.I ***saw*** ***her*** in town today.We ***saw*** ***them*** in town yesterday, but they didn't ***see*** ***us***.

and after **prepositions**:

She is waiting ***for me***.I'll get it ***for you***.Give it ***to him***.Why are you looking ***at her***?Don't take it ***from us***.I'll speak ***to them***.

***he, she*and*they***

We use***he/him***to refer to men, and ***she/her***torefer to women. They and them are used for plurals but sometimes when we are not sure if we are talking about a man or a woman, we can use***they/them***:

*This is****Jack. He****'s my brother. I don't think you have met****him.***  
*This is****Angela. She****'s my sister. Have you met****her****before?*  
*You could go to a****doctor****.****They****might help you.*  
*Talk to**a****friend.****Ask****them****to help you.*

## you ****and****they

**YOU** is a second person pronoun but We also use ***YOU*** or **ONE** to talk about people in general, including the speaker and the hearer:

***You*** can buy this book everywhere. = This book is on sale everywhere.  
***You***can't park here. = Parking is not allowed here.

**WE** is used to make an opinion more general:

When we think of cheese, we think of pizza.

We use ***they/them*** to talk about institutions and organizations:

***They*** serve good food here. (they = the restaurant)  
Ask ***them*** for a cheaper ticket. (them = the airline)

Especially the government and the authorities:

***They***don't let you smoke in here. ***They***are going to increase taxes.***They*** are building a new motorway. ***They*** say it’s going to rain tomorrow.

***It***

We use ***it*** to talk about ourselves:

* on the telephone:

*Hello.****It****'s George.*

* when other people cannot see us:

***It****'s me.****It****'s Mary.* (Mary is knocking on the door.)

We also use ***it*** to talk about other people:

* when we point people out for the first time:

*Look.****It****'s Paul McCartney.  
Who's that? I think****it****'s John's brother.*

* when we cannot see someone and we ask them for their name:

*Hello. Who is****it****?* (someone answering the phone)  
*Who is****it****?* (someone about to answer the door)

We also use***it***to talk about:

* times and dates:

***It's****nearly one o'clock.****It's****my birthday.*

* the weather:

***It's****raining.****It's****a lovely day.****It was****getting cold.*

We use ***it*** with the verb [*be*](https://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/node/1372/) and an [*–ing*](https://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/english-grammar-reference/ing-forms) form or [*to-infinitive*](https://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/english-grammar-reference/infinitives) to express opinions:

***It's****great living here.****It's****nice to meet you.*

Remember that English clauses alwayshave a **subject**:

*His father has just retired.*>***He****was a teacher.* (NOT *~~Was a teacher~~.*)  
*I'm waiting for my wife.* > ***She****is late.* (NOT *~~Is late~~.*)

... except for the **imperative**:

***Go****away.****Play****it again, please.*

We use the object form in short responses:

Who spilled the juice? - Me

***there***

If there is no other subject, we use ***there*** to talk about:

* where or when something is:

***There's****an interesting book on the shelf.****There'll be****an eclipse of the moon tonight.*

* a number or amount:

***There is****plenty of bread left.****There were****twenty people at the meeting.*

* something existing or happening:

***There's****a small problem.****There was****a nasty fight.*

**Possessive pronouns**

We had talked about possessive determiners in the previous chapter. The second set includes possessive pronouns that are used in place of possessive noun phrases or in answer to ‘whose’.

*Her room is smaller than mine*

*Whose bag is this? It is not mine.*

Possessive pronouns do **not** have an apostrophe:

Is that car ***yours***/***hers***/***ours***/***theirs***?  
(NOT Is that car ***~~your's/her's/our's/their's~~***?)

We can use a possessive pronoun instead of a full noun phrase to avoid repeating words:

Is that John's car?     No, it's ***mine***. (NOT No, it's ***[~~my car~~]***.)

Whose coat is this?  
     Is it ***yours***? (NOT Is it ***[~~your coat~~]***?)

Her coat is grey.  
     ***Mine*** is brown. (NOT ~~[~~***~~My coat~~***~~]~~ is brown.)

We can use **possessive pronouns and nouns after** **of**. We can say:

Susan is one of my friends. > Susan is a friend ***of mine***.  
(NOT Susan is a friend ***~~of me~~***.)

I am one of Susan's friends. > I am a friend ***of Susan's***.  
(NOT I am a friend ***~~of Susan~~***.)

# Pronouns in questions

We use **who**to ask questions about **people**:

***Who***is that?***Who***lives here?***Who***did you see?

We use **whose**to ask aboutpossession:

Whose coat is this?

We use ***what***to ask questions about **things**:

***What***is that?***What*** do you want?

We use ***which*** to ask someone to choose something:

***Which*** came first, the chicken or the egg?I've got two books. ***Which*** do you want?

We can also use ***what*** and ***which*** with [nouns](https://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/english-grammar-reference/nouns):

***What subjects***did you study at school?***What newspaper***do you read?***Which newspaper***do you read – The Times or The Guardian?***Which book*** do you want?***Which one***is yours?

We often have a preposition at the end of a question:

***Who*** does this book belong ***to***?***What*** are you looking ***for***?***Which***university did you go ***to***?

# Reflexive pronouns

The reflexive pronouns are:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **singular:** | myself | yourself | himself | herself | itself |
| **plural:** | ourselves | yourselves | themselves |  |  |

We use a reflexive pronoun as a **direct object** when the object is **the same as the subject** of the verb:

***I***am teaching ***myself***to play the piano.Be careful with that knife. ***You*** might cut ***yourself***.

We can use a reflexive pronoun as direct object with most **transitive verbs**, but these are the most common:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| amuseblamecutdry | enjoyhelphurtintroduce | killpreparesatisfyteach |

We do not use a reflexive pronoun after verbs which describe things people **usually** do for themselves:

He ***washed***in cold water.He always ***shaved*** before going out in the evening.Michael ***dressed***and got ready for the party.

We only use reflexives with these verbs for emphasis:

He ***dressed himself***in spite of his injuries.She’s old enough to ***wash herself***.

We use reflexive pronouns as an **indirect object** when the indirect object is **the same as the subject of the verb**:

*Would****you****like to pour****yourself****a drink?****We****’ve brought****ourselves****something to eat.*

We use reflexive pronouns as the **object of a** **preposition** when the object is **the same as the subject**of the verb:

***They****had to cook****for themselves****.****He****was feeling very sorry****for himself****.*

but we use **object pronouns**, not reflexives, after **prepositions of place**:

*He had a suitcase****beside******him****.* (NOT ~~himself~~)

and after ***with*** when it means *accompanied by*:

*She had a few friends****with her****.* (NOT ~~herself~~)

We use reflexives **with the preposition *by*:**

* to show that someone did something without any help:

*The children got dressed****by themselves****.  
I prepared the whole meal****by myself****.*

* to show that someone was alone:

*He lived****by himself****in an enormous house.  
She walked home****by herself****.*

We use reflexive pronouns to emphasise the person or thing we are referring to:

***Kendal itself****is quite a small town.*

* especially if we are talking about someone very famous:

***Sir Paul McCartney himself****sang the final song.*

We often put the reflexive pronoun at the end of the clause when we are using it for emphasis:

*I baked the bread****myself****.  
She mended the car****herself****.*

Some verbs change their meaning slightly when they have a reflexive pronoun as direct object:

Would you like to ***help yourself*** to another drink?  
     = Would you like to take another drink?  
I wish the children would ***behave themselves***.  
     = I wish the children would behave well.  
He ***found himself***lying by the side of the road.  
     = He was surprised when he realised that he was lying by the side of the road.  
I ***saw myself*** as a famous actor.  
     = I imagined that I was a famous actor.  
She ***applied herself***to the job of mending the lights.  
     = She worked very hard to mend the lights.  
He***busied himself*** in the kitchen.  
     = He worked busily in the kitchen.  
I had to ***content myself***with a few euros.  
     = I had to be satisfied with a few euros.

# Reciprocal pronouns

We use the reciprocal pronouns **each other** and **one another** when two or more people do the same thing or the same action or feeling goes both ways between two or more people.

Peter and Mary helped ***each other***.     = Peter helped Mary and Mary helped Peter.  
We sent ***one another***Christmas cards.     = We sent them a Christmas card and they sent us a Christmas card.  
They didn't look at ***each other***.     = X didn't look at Y and Y didn't look at X.

We also use the possessive forms **each other's** and **one another's**:

They helped to look after ***each other's*** children.The group of students often stayed in ***one another's*** houses.

Note that we do **not** use reciprocal pronouns as the subject of a clause.

Reciprocal pronouns and [plural reflexive pronouns](https://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/english-grammar-reference/reflexive-pronouns) (ourselves, yourselves, themselves) have different meanings:

John and Fred ***killed each other***.      = John killed Fred and Fred killed John.  
John and Fred ***killed themselves***.      = John killed himself and Fred killed himself.

# Indefinite pronouns

The indefinite pronouns are:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| anybody | everybody | nobody | somebody |
| anyone | everyone | no one | someone |
| anything | everything | nothing | something |

We use indefinite pronouns to refer to people or things without saying exactly who or what they are. We use pronouns ending in -body or -one for people, and pronouns ending in ***-***thing for things:

***Everybody*** enjoyed the concert.I opened the door but there was ***no one***at home.It was a very clear day. We could see ***everything***.

We use a **singular verb**after an indefinite pronoun:

Everybody ***loves***Sally.Everything ***was***ready for the party.

When we **refer back**to an indefinite pronoun, we normally use a **plural pronoun**:

***Everybody***enjoyed the concert. ***They***stood up and clapped.I will tell ***somebody***that dinner is ready. ***They***have been waiting a long time.

In **negative clauses**, we use **pronouns with no-**, not pronouns with any-:

***Nobody*** came. (NOT ***~~Anybody~~***~~didn't come.~~)

We do **not** use another negative in a clause with nobody, no one or nothing:

***Nobody*** came. (NOT ***~~Nobody~~***~~didn't come.~~)  
***Nothing*** happened. (NOT ***~~Nothing~~***~~didn't happen.~~)

We can add **'s** to an indefinite pronoun to make a [**possessive**](https://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/english-grammar-reference/possessives-pronouns)**:**

They were staying in ***somebody's***house.Is this ***anybody's***coat?

We use ***else*** after indefinite pronouns to refer to **other people or things**:

All the family came, but ***no one else***.If Michael can't come, we'll ask ***somebody else***.I think this is ***somebody else's*** coat.

# Substitution

# 'one' and 'ones'

We use ‘one’ and ‘ones’ to avoid repeating countable nouns. **one**  is used in place of singular noun or noun phrase and **ones**  instead of plural nouns but not instead of plural noun phrase .

One is used to refer to an object in general, for a specific example, it is used.

Do you have a dictionary? I am looking for one.

Do you have my book? I am looking for it.

* We don’t use a,an,the with one or ones unless an adjective is added :

See those two girls? Helen is the **tall one**and Jane is the **short one**.  
Which is your car, the **red one** or the **blue one**?  
My trousers are torn. I need some **new ones**.

I need a red one.

* after [**the**](https://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/english-grammar-reference/definite-article):

See those two girls? Helen is ***the one*** on the left.Let's look at the photographs – ***the ones*** you took in Paris.

* after [which](https://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/english-grammar-reference/interrogative-determiners-which-and-what) in questions:

You can borrow a book. ***Which one*** do you want?***Which ones*** are yours?

**SO and DO SO**

We can use “so” instead of repeating an object clause, also to avoid repetitions of what was said.

**Examples:**

* **A:** Will Marry join the party tonight? **B:** I think **so**. ( I think Marry will join the party tonight. )
* The exam was cancelled. The teacher said  **so** when we went to the school.  ( the teacher told us that the exam was cancelled. )
* **A:** Is this correct answer? **B:** I suppose **so**! ( I suppose this is the correct answer )

So is used with ‘less’ or ‘more’ instead of repeating an adjective or adverb.

* He used to be very serious. He is less so now.

If so is used in a conditional clause.

* Rita says you took her book. If so, please return it.

DO SO is used instead of repeating a verb and object-

* She asked me to revise the lesson and I did so.

ELLIPSIS-

Ellipsis is a Greek word meaning omission.

Good usage does not demand that all sentences shall be absolutely complete. It often allows (and sometimes requires) the omission of words that, though necessary to the construction, are so easily supplied by the mind that it would be mere waste of time to utter them.  
The omission of a word or words necessary to the grammatical completeness of a clause or sentence is called **ellipsis**.

Ellipses save space or remove material that is less relevant.

* We usually leave out a repeated subject, auxiliary or verb that comes after and, but, then, yet.  
  He came but left early. Not- He came but he left early.
* But subjects and auxiliaries after subordinating conjunctions are not omitted.

He is tired because he is ill. Not- He is tired because is ill

* We also leave out repeated objects and preposition phrases.

We usually boil and poach eggs. Not- We usually boil eggs and poach eggs

* But objects from second or later clauses are not omitted.

She makes jewellery and sells it. Not- She makes jewellery and sells.

* A repeated verb phrase, adjective or preposition phrase that comes after- an auxiliary verb, to, not to,-is omitted-

We would help you if we could. Not- We would help you if we could help you.

* Repeated words can be left out after question words when we ask or report questions-

We have to leave now. Why---?

Study these rules do the exercises in chapter 8 . If anyone faces a problem in understanding a concept, give me a call

Ajinder.