

Pronouns Worksheet

WHAT IS A PRONOUN?

A pronoun is a word that takes the place of a noun.

Example:

1. I like Lisa. Lisa is a nice girl.

Replace the noun 'Lisa' in the second clause with the word 'She': ('She' is a pronoun)

"I like Lisa. She is a nice girl."

Why are Pronouns Used?

They are used to avoid repetition

It does not look nice to use Noun again and again in each sentence

Look at the sentence extract from an article about a famous Bollywood actor.

"Amir is an Indian actor. Amir loves the camera as Amir loves to be the centre of attention."

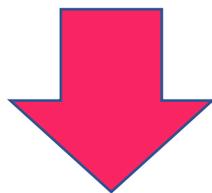
What is wrong with the extract?

It is repetitive!

Amir is an Indian actor. Amir loves the camera as Amir loves to be the centre of attention.

Amir...Amir...loves...Amir...loves sounds like your five-year-old sister on repeat!

If we want to upgrade the readability of the extract, we must use conjunctions and replace the nouns with pronouns.



BUT FIRST here are the different kinds of Pronouns:

WRITE THESE DOWN!

STUDY THEM!

KNOW THEM!

TYPE	FUNCTION	EXAMPLES
1. Indefinite pronouns (All of the one- and body pronouns)	Refer to people or things in a general way. E.g. <u>Someone</u> stole my book.	Someone, one, somebody, everybody, none, anyone, anybody, everyone, they, no- one, nobody, etc.
2. Personal pronouns	They function as a subject or an object in a sentence. E.g. <u>She</u> won the History prize.	I, you, he, she, it, we, they, me, him, her, it, us, them
3. Possessive pronouns	The pronoun shows that something belongs. E.g. Is the dog <u>yours</u> ? It is <u>mine</u> .	Mine, yours, his, hers, its, ours, their
4. Demonstrative pronouns * Take note that they can be confused with demonstrative adjectives.	Indicates something or someone specific. E.g. <u>That</u> is my bag. Rule: If the word is followed by a noun it is not a pronoun! E.g. <u>That</u> bag is my bag. ↑ ADJECTIVE	This, that, these, those.
5. Reflexive pronouns (All of the -self and -selves)	Reflects back to the subject noun or pronoun. E.g. I would rather do it <u>myself</u> .	Myself, yourself, himself, herself, itself, ourselves, yourselves, themselves
6. Relative pronouns	Refers to something or someone mentioned earlier in the sentence. E.g. That was the boy <u>who</u> won the award.	Who, whom, whose, that, which, what
7. Interrogative pronouns * Take note that they can be confused with Relative pronouns. Just look for “?” at the end of the sentence if it is Interrogative.	The pronoun is used to ask a question. E.g. <u>What</u> are you doing?	Who, (to) whom, what, which, whose.

How do we improve the readability of the extract about Amir?

Amir is an Indian actor. Amir loves the camera as Amir loves to be the centre of attention.

1. Find the main idea!

Amir is an Indian actor. = main idea

- We must keep the independent clause or main idea for the rest of the extract to make sense.

2. Remove the repetition! (Take note: Repetition is also called redundancy)

The sentence that follow adds detail to the main idea.

“Amir loves the camera as Amir loves to be the centre of attention.”

We should not repeat Amir’s name as we already know from the first sentence, who the extract is about. The word “love” is also redundant as it has already been used in the sentence.

NOW LET'S IMPROVE THE EXTRACT!

- ✓ Replaced the noun with a pronoun.

Amir is an Indian actor, who loves the camera and to be the centre of attention.

- ✓ Used a conjunction to avoid repeated words / ideas.

We improve the flow of a sentence by replacing nouns with pronouns and by using conjunctions.

Activity:

1. Select the correct pronoun that goes with the verb in each sentence. Write down the sentence in your book.

- _____ (I, They, He) are having trouble getting back to the library.
- What time was _____ (we, they, she) planning on leaving?
- Six of _____ (me, us, you) went to the store with Andy.

2. Fill in the blanks with a suitable pronoun. Write down the sentence in your book.

- Tom and I are going to the circus. _____ are meeting at three o'clock.
- Your feet are very dirty. _____ must wash them.
- Peacock is a beautiful bird. _____ has colourful feathers.

3. **Identify the underlined pronoun and its function in the following sentences.**

Write down the sentence and the type of pronoun in brackets next to it.

E.g. She walks to the grocery store. (Personal Pronoun)

- a. I am fine and you? (_____)
- b. That was the girl who went to jail. (_____)
- c. Whose mother phoned me last night? (_____)
- d. That is not her boyfriend. (_____)

4. **Use a paragraph from any piece you have done under creative writing. Improve the paragraph by replacing nouns with pronouns and using conjunctions.**

Write down the original paragraph and the corrected paragraph.

Activity Answers

1.

a. **They** ✓ (I, They, He) are having trouble getting back to the library.

b. What time was **she** ✓ (we, they, she) planning on leaving?

c. Six of **us** ✓ (me, us, you) went to the store with Andy.

2.

a. Tom and I are going to the circus. **We** ✓ are meeting at three o'clock.

b. Your feet are very dirty. **You** ✓ must wash them.

c. Peacock is a beautiful bird. **It** ✓ has colourful feathers.

3.

a. I am fine and you? (**Personal pronoun**)

b. That was the girl who went to jail. (**Relative Pronoun**)

c. Whose mother phoned me last night? (**Interrogative Pronoun**)

d. That is not her boyfriend. (**Demonstrative Pronoun**)

4. Learners own response.