

Pronouns and Antecedents

2h. A **pronoun** is a word used in place of one or more nouns or pronouns.

The word that a pronoun stands for is called its **antecedent**.

EXAMPLE Arlon wanted snapshots, but **he** did not have **his** camera handy. [The pronouns *he* and *his* refer to the antecedent *Arlon*.]

Sometimes a pronoun's antecedent is not stated.

EXAMPLE The teacher asked **everyone** to bring in art supplies for the project. [The pronoun *everyone* has no stated antecedent.]

EXERCISE For each of the following sentences, identify each pronoun and its antecedent. Underline every pronoun once and its antecedent twice. Some of the pronouns do not have stated antecedents. If a pronoun has no stated antecedent, write *NSA* above the pronoun.

Example 1. Parker brought her tap shoes to the party, but she did not dance.

- The gazelles came down to the stream, but they did not drink.
- Dean and Jim decided to pool their resources and buy a video camera.
- Debra set up an easel and a palette, and then she began to paint.
- Don't play the piano; it needs tuning.
- Are you going to the library?
- After seeing three more movies, Paula decided that she liked Harrison Ford after all.
- The crowd lifted their voices in song as the team took the field.
- Somebody answer the phone, please.
- Mariella posted a Stephen Crane poem on her Web site.
- George told Mary that he would love to see the film.
- On his trip to India, Steve Decker was attacked by a cow.
- Sandrine signed her name inside the book's front cover.
- No one knew who brought the banana bread to the potluck dinner.
- Carla called out, "The red bass guitar is mine!"
- The day Dave didn't use his sunblock, he got badly sunburned.
- "See that painting on the far wall? Jane knows the woman who painted it."
- As the cattle came through the gate, some headed for the barn, but most stayed in the yard.
- If that is the pen Randy wants, why doesn't Brad buy it?
- Steve invited us to his house to watch his favorite show on television.
- These are the flowers I was talking about; aren't they beautiful?

Personal, Reflexive, and Intensive Pronouns

2i. A **personal pronoun** refers to the one speaking (*first person*), the one spoken to (*second person*), or the one spoken about (*third person*).

EXAMPLES They asked **me** to give **you** this message and to wait for **your** reply. [*They* is third person, *me* is first person, and *you* and *your* are second person.]

2j. A **reflexive pronoun** refers to the subject and functions as a complement or an object of a preposition.

2k. An **intensive pronoun** emphasizes a noun or another pronoun.

All reflexive and intensive pronouns end in *–self* or *–selves*.

REFLEXIVE The explorers had promised **themselves** that one day they would scale Mount McKinley. [*Themselves*, an indirect object, refers to the subject *explorers*.]

INTENSIVE Mark had prepared the entire dinner **himself**. [*Himself* emphasizes the noun *Mark*.]

EXERCISE In each of the following sentences, underline the pronoun or pronouns. Above each pronoun, write *P* for *personal*, *R* for *reflexive*, or *I* for *intensive*.

Example 1. Mimi finally gave up looking, and ^{*P*}she told ^{*R*}herself that the missing book would turn up eventually.

- Hari bought the bicycle himself, with his own money.
- As soon as the students decided to write and perform a play, they created an outline of the story.
- After waiting an hour for Jesse to stop talking on the phone, the kids filled the wading pool themselves.
- Did you leave the cup on the counter?
- When Mr. and Mrs. Britt sold their house, it was on the market for only a week.
- I bought the sandwich for you, Al, and the salad for myself.
- “We should not be too hard on ourselves,” the coach told the team. “We worked hard and did the best we could.”
- Gwen, you need to ask yourself some tough questions about the future.
- The Wahrmans painted their new house themselves.
- Dr. Connolly himself cooked the main course for us.

Demonstrative and Relative Pronouns

2l. A **demonstrative pronoun** points out a person, a place, a thing, or an idea.

EXAMPLE **That** is a photograph of the space shuttle *Atlantis*. [*That* points out *photograph*.]

2n. A **relative pronoun** introduces a subordinate clause.

EXAMPLE Is this the book **that** describes the Hopi Snake Dance? [*That* introduces the subordinate clause *that describes the Hopi Snake Dance*.]

EXERCISE Identify the demonstrative and the relative pronouns in the following sentences. Underline each demonstrative pronoun once and each relative pronoun twice.

Example 1. This is the best banana bread that I have ever tasted!

- Last night we watched *The Searchers*, which is my father's favorite movie.
- That is the book assigned for class for next week.
- This is not the sweater that I want to wear.
- Ms. Garson offered a ride to Dr. Conrad, whose car was being repaired.
- Dinesh, who is in the chess club, showed me how the pieces on a chessboard move.
- The sonata, which is usually played on the harpsichord, can also be played on the piano.
- This is the roll-top desk that my mother refinished.
- Please tell me the names of those who are willing to work on Saturday.
- Mr. Cotten, whose book we are reading in English class, is coming to speak to us.
- That is the ugliest painting that I have ever seen, but this is quite lovely.
- The apple on the plate was picked yesterday, but those that are on the counter were picked two days ago.
- My older sister, whose dog is named Padgett, is very fond of all animals.
- Why don't we ask Mimi, to whom the package was addressed?
- This is the best time to speak to Professor Kinbote, who might know the answer to the question.
- If you follow the directions that Alice gave you, you will find the house with no problem.
- This is the best-looking pecan pie in the competition, but that tastes better.
- Are these the kittens that you found under the bridge?
- These seem to be the shoes that I left in the locker room yesterday.
- The book, which has two authors, should be filed under the first author's name.
- The artist who did the mural in the library probably did this as well.