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Pronouns: Reflexive and Intensive

Pronouns are words that take the place of nouns in sentences.

Example: Mark will take Mark's little brother with Mark.

You can substitute pronouns to make the sentence clearer:

Mark will take *his* little brother with *him*.

See the chart below containing singular and plural nominative, objective, possessive, and reflexive personal pronouns. Review the examples of special pronouns and the rules of agreement that follow the chart.

Personal Pronouns (Reflexive and intensive pronouns are in boldface.)

Singular

| First Person | Second Person | Third Person |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| I, me, my, mine myself | you, your, yours yourself | he, she, it, him, her, hers, its, himself, herself, itself |

Plural

| First Person | Second Person | Third Person |
|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| we, us, our ours, ourselves | you, your, yours, yourselves | they, them, their, theirs themselves |

REFLEXIVE AND INTENSIVE PRONOUNS

Reflexive pronouns are used to reflect the subject for clarity.

Examples: I will do it myself.

Arnie was able to build the model himself, and the teacher was impressed.

Reflexive pronouns never substitute for subject or object pronouns.

INCORRECT: Ben and myself will do the project together.

CORRECT: Ben and I will do the project together.

INCORRECT: The program will be introduced by Andrea and myself.

CORRECT: The program will be introduced by Andrea and me.

Intensive pronouns are used to intensify or strengthen a statement.

I myself will have the first slice of cake.

The queen herself made an appearance at the ball.

Use pronouns correctly in a story. With a partner, write a story or series of related sentences using ten of the pronouns in the chart above, including at least one reflexive and one intensive pronoun. Read your story or sentences aloud to another pair. Have them check the sentences for correct usage.

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Pronouns: Pronouns and Agreement
Use this guide to complete the activities on the next page.

Pronouns are words that take the place of nouns in sentences. The *antecedent* is the word to which a pronoun refers. See the chart of personal and indefinite pronouns below.

Personal Pronouns

Singular

| First Person | Second Person | Third Person |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|---|
| I, me, my, mine myself | you, your, yours yourself | he, she, it him, his, her, hers, its |

Plural

| First Person | Second Person | Third Person |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|---|
| we, us, our ours, ourselves | you, your, yours, yourselves | they, them, their, theirs themselves |

Indefinite Pronouns

Singular: another, anybody, anyone, anything, each, either, everybody, everyone, everything, little, much, neither, nobody, no one, nothing, one, other, somebody, someone, something

Plural: both, few, many, others, several

Singular or Plural: all, any, more, most, none, some

Pronouns must agree with their antecedents in gender and number, and must also agree with verbs. See the examples below.

INCORRECT: Everyone bring their books to class.

CORRECT: Everyone brings his or her book to class.

Everyone is a singular pronoun and must have a singular verb and a singular pronoun to agree with it.

Usually, a prepositional phrase does not affect agreement.

Example: The book about sports is on the shelf.

Here *book* is the singular subject that must agree with the verb *is*. The prepositional phrase *about sports* only modifies *book* (telling which book) and does not affect subject-verb agreement.

However, because some pronouns are either singular or plural, the prepositional phrase can provide information.

Examples:

| | | | |
|-------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|
| all of it | some of it | most of it | any of it |
| all of them | some of them | most of them | any of them |

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Pronouns and Agreement

Use the guidelines provided to complete the activities.

Complete the following sentences by circling the correct pronoun. Check your work with a partner and discuss how you made your choices.

1. Everybody wants to speak about (their, his or her) own project at the fair.
2. Colleen and (I, me) want to show our artwork at the fair, too.
3. Each project has (their, its) own point of view about history.
4. Most of the projects (has, have) never been exhibited before.
5. Anybody from the class (is, are) allowed to go and spend the day.

Complete the following sentences by circling the correct verb.

6. Everyone in the class (are, is) participating in the fair.
7. Some of them (has, have) more than one event to attend.
8. Most of the projects (is, are) on display for the whole week.
9. My classmates and teacher (feel, feels) every excited to be part of it.
10. Each of the participants (earns, earn) a certificate.

Write a story using ten pronouns. Give your story to a partner and have him or her circle the pronouns. Discuss your stories and your pronoun usage.