

Major Categories of Pronouns

A pronoun is a word that takes the place of a noun. Pronouns have different forms, called *cases*, that indicate their purpose in a sentence. The major cases of pronouns follow.

NOMINATIVE CASE PRONOUNS

Nominative case pronouns take the place of nouns that are the subjects of a sentence. They may also take the place of nouns that follow a linking verb, in which instance they are known as predicate pronouns.

	<i>Singular</i>	<i>Plural</i>
First Person:	I	we
Second Person:	you	you
Third Person:	he, she, it	they

OBJECTIVE CASE PRONOUNS

Objective case pronouns take the place of nouns that are direct or indirect objects in a sentence. They may also take the place of nouns that are the object of prepositions.

	<i>Singular</i>	<i>Plural</i>
First Person:	me	us
Second Person:	you	you
Third Person:	him, her, it	them

POSSESSIVE PRONOUNS

Possessive pronouns show ownership. While some are used alone, others are used before nouns.

POSSESSIVE PRONOUNS USED ALONE

	<i>Singular</i>	<i>Plural</i>
First Person:	mine	ours
Second Person:	yours	yours
Third Person:	his, her, its	theirs

POSSESSIVE PRONOUNS USED BEFORE NOUNS

	<i>Singular</i>	<i>Plural</i>
First Person:	my	our
Second Person:	your	your
Third Person:	his, her, its	their

Major Categories of Pronouns (*continued*)

Note: Do not confuse possessive pronouns with contractions:

<i>Possessive Pronoun</i>	<i>Contraction</i>
your	you're (you are)
its	it's (it is)
their	they're (they are)

INDEFINITE PRONOUNS

Indefinite pronouns refer to a person, place, thing, or idea without identifying which specific one. Indefinite pronouns may be singular or plural; some may be both.

	<i>Singular</i>	<i>Plural</i>	<i>Singular or Plural</i>
another	no one	both	all
anybody	nothing	few	any
each	one	many	more
either	other	others	most
everyone	somebody	several	none
everything	someone		some
much	something		
neither			

WHO, WHOM, AND WHOSE

Who and *whom* are used as interrogative pronouns, which ask a question. They are also used as relative pronouns, which introduce a subordinate clause. *Whose* is a possessive pronoun that shows ownership.

- *Who* is a nominative case pronoun. Use *who* whenever *he* or *she* can be substituted for it.
Examples:

Who ate the cake?

He (she) ate the cake.

Marsha Wilson, who is the first-place finisher, wins the \$500 savings bond.

... she is the first-place finisher.

- *Whom* is an objective case pronoun. Use *whom* whenever you can change the sentence from a question to a statement and substitute *him* or *her*. *Examples:*

Whom did you e-mail?

You e-mailed him (her).

With whom are you speaking?

You are speaking with him (her).

- *Whose* is a possessive pronoun. Do not confuse it with *who's*, which is a contraction for *who is*. *Examples:*

Whose books are on the table?

Who's at the door? (Who is at the door?)