

## 9 Types of English Pronouns with Examples: Learners Guide

Need to know the types of English pronouns to use correctly words like: **I, Me, My, Mine, myself** and more?

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The words above are pronouns and make part of [English grammar essential](#). They replace nouns or noun phrases in a sentence. Mastering pronouns and learning vocabulary can help you build confidence and achieve fluency in English.

But, how to use these words correctly?

Using pronouns can be overwhelming for second language learners. This is because there are 9 types of English pronouns. Each type includes a set of different or similar words. Plus. Some pronouns can belong either to one type or other.

For example, “You”, can be a *subject pronoun* in the sentence: **You** live in London. But it can also be an *object pronoun*, in the statement -I want **you** here, right now.

This behavior of doubling role increases the difficulties of using pronouns correctly. As a result, learners fail to become fluent in English.

Knowing the types of pronouns and the words they include can help you use them correctly.

Here is what you're expected to look at:

- What are pronouns
- **Subject Pronouns: I, You, He, She, It, We, You, and They**
- **Possessive Determiners (Adjectives Pronouns): My, Your, His, Her, its, Our, Your, Their**
- **Possessive Pronouns: Mine, Yours, His, Its, Ours, Yours and Theirs**
- **Intensive vs. Reflexive Pronouns: Myself, Yourself, Himself, Herself, Itself, Ourselves, Yourselves and Themselves**
- **Object Pronouns: Me, You, Him, Her, Its, Us, You and Them**
- **Interrogative Pronouns: What, Where, How and more**
- **Demonstrative Pronouns: This/That; These/Those**
- **Indefinite Pronouns: Somebody, Anything, Everywhere and others**
- **Reciprocal Pronouns: Each Other vs. One Another**

To find vocabulary you can practice with these pronouns visit the article: "[Everyday English for Life Lessons](#)".

### What are English Pronouns and Which Types Do They Include?

Simply put, pronouns are words used instead of nouns. To illustrate this, consider reading the statements below:

Statements:

- **Lurdes Mutola** is a Mozambican former athlete. **She** lives in Maputo.
- **Ângelo** is an English teacher. **He** teaches English in Johannesburg.

The words “she” and “he”, are pronouns. Both replace the names *Lurdes Mutola* and *Angelo*, in the sentences above.

While replacing names, these 2 pronouns give to the reader or listener, 2 relevant information:

*First, they highlight the gender of the subject they replace:*

- “**She**,” replaces a *FEMALE name*: *Lurdes Mutola* is a woman;
- “**He**”, replaces a *MALE name*: *Angelo* is a man.

*Second, they focus on the role of the pronoun in the sentence:*

- “Lurdes Mutola” is the subject of the first sentence.
- “Angelo” is the subjects of the second sentence.

So, the pronouns “She”, and “He”, stand for these names.

This is the reason why *she* and *he* are **subject pronouns**. Because they play the role of subject in the 2 sentences above. And they belong to the type of Subject pronouns. See [nouns you can use](#) to practice these pronouns with.

This take us to the question:

## **Types of Pronouns and words they Include**

### **1. Subject Pronouns: *I, You, He, She* and More, to Help You Practice and Achieve Fluency in English.**

The name is self-explanatory: these words play the role of subject. Although *you* and *it* may *also* be used as object pronouns.

Take a look:

- **I** live in this building.
- **You** own this car.
- **He** is a bus driver.
- **She** is a website designer.
- **It** is an eagle’s nest.
- **We** work in this company.
- **You** are the owners of these computers.
- **They** run this business.

The pronoun “I” for example, is the *subject* of the statement “ *I live in this building*”.

The same happens with the words “*you*”, “*he*”, “*she*” and so on, in the statements they are included.

They all are subject pronouns.

## 2. Possessive Determiners (Adjectives Pronouns): *My, Your, His, Her, its, Our, Your, Their*

Possessive determiners are other pronouns you need to know if you want to achieve fluency in English. These kind of vocabulary come together with a noun or noun phrase. They are placed before these nouns.

E. g.

- I live in this house. It’s **my** house.
- You own this car. It’s **your** car.
- He is a bus driver. This is **his** bus.
- She is a website designer. This is **her** website.
- It is an eagle’s nest. It is **its** nest.
- We work in this company. It’s **our** company.
- You are the owners of these computers. They’re **your** computers.
- They run this business. It is **their** business.

The pronoun “*my*” in the statement: “*It is my house*”, is a clear example of this.

To highlight the idea of possession, “*my*” was placed before the noun “*house*”.

So we say: *It is my house*.

## 3. Possessive -*Mine, Yours, His* and more

The possessive pronouns aren’t placed before nouns. They replace both the *pronoun* and the *noun* they refer to. See [nouns you can practice with to express emotions & feelings](#) and more.

See this:

- I live in this house. It is my house. It is **mine**.
- You own this car. It is your car. It is **yours**.
- He is a bus driver. This is his bus. It is **his**.
- She is a website designer. This is her website. It is **hers**.
- It is an eagle’s nest. It is its nest. It is **its**.
- We work in this company. It is our company. It is **ours**.
- You are the owners of these computers. They’re your computers. They’re **yours**.
- They run this business. It is their business. It’s **theirs**.

In the sample: "... *It is my house. It is **mine***", you notice that "mine" replaces both *my* and *house*, from the previous sentence. Yet the meaning of the sentence is the same. So, "mine" in the referred statement, means *my house*.

The same happens with other samples under this type of pronouns.

## 4. Intensive vs. Reflexive Pronouns: *Myself, Yourself, Himself* and More

### 4.1. Intensive:

The job of an intensive pronoun is to add emphasis to the subject of a sentence. Achieving fluency in English, also means being capable to use the pronouns with specific purpose.

Check these examples of English pronouns in daily conversation:

- I own this car. It is my car. The car is mine. I bought it **myself**.
- You are a bus driver. This is your bus. The bus is yours. You drive it **yourself**.
- He is a website designer. This is his website. It is his. He designed it **himself**.
- She lives in this house. It is her house. The house is her. She built it **herself**.
- What is that? -It is an eagle's nest. It is its nest. It is its. The eagle constructed it **itself**.
- We work in this company. It is our company. The company is ours. We built it **ourselves**.
- You are the owners of these computers. They're your computers. They're yours. You bought them **yourselves**.
- They run this business. It is their business. It is theirs. They built it **themselves**.

In the sample "*I own this car... I bought it **myself***", the speaker could just have said: "*I bought it*". The sentence still would make sense.

But they wanted to emphasize that they bought the car, not someone else, so they said "*I bought it **myself***".

It's in this sense we use the words above, as *intensive pronouns*.

But the same words can also be used as reflexive pronouns.

### *How to use the same words as reflexive pronouns?*

Before discussing this, remember:

The words *myself, yourself, himself, herself, itself, ourselves, yourselves* and *themselves*, are *intensive pronouns*...

Just under this conditions:

- If they *add an emphasis* to the noun used as the subject in a sentence.

E. g.

- He is a website designer...he designed this website **himself**.

This knowledge is essential for mastering English pronouns to achieve fluency.

#### 4.2. Reflexive

When do we use the words in question, as reflexive pronouns then?

Good question!

Here is the answer:

- When the pronouns receive the action of the subject, in a sentence.

The statements below can help you understand and use this type of pronouns to achieve fluency in English.

Have a look:

- I did that because I really love **myself**. You know it;
- Be careful with the knife. You can cut **yourself** with it;
- The thief was able to climb the fence, but he hurt **himself**;
- She couldn't help with the pain on her leg, so she treated **herself**;
- The Leopard managed to save **itself** from being caught by the hunter;
- We took this actions because we wanted to protect **ourselves** from thieves;
- Do you think we enjoyed the concert? – Sure. Although you didn't dance you amused **yourselves**;
- No one was happy with their performance but, they encouraged **themselves** not to give up.

The object of the action in this kind of sentence is the proper subject. It's this that receives the action. So achieving fluency in English also involves using these pronouns in this sense.

The key factor to learning a language is through practice. Find here some [free speaking practice resources](#).

### 5. Types of English Pronouns: Object Pronouns - *Me, You, Him, Her, Its, Us, You and Them*

Object pronouns include 2 branches: *Direct* and *Indirect*.

How to differentiate one, from another?

Here is how:

## 5.1. Direct

A *direct pronoun* in a sentence receives the action of the subject.

These sentences can show this:

- I was working with this machine and it hurt **me**.
- Be careful! That knife is too sharp. It can cut **you**.
- Jessica is marrying Edmund... She is marrying **him** the coming weekend.
- She is struggling to fix an issue on her computer. Can you help **her**?
- I ate an apple at lunch time yesterday. I ate **it**...
- They invited you, Luis and me to the party. They invited **us**.
- You both should say thanks to David. He helped **you** do the task.
- Monica loves her parents. She loves **them** because they also love **her**.

English pronouns to achieve fluency: Let's take sample 1 "*I was working with this machine and it hurt **me***" and ask 2 basic question:

- *What did the machine do? - Answer: **It hurt***
- *Who did the machine hurt? – Answer: **Me***

“**Me**” is an object pronoun.

Why do we say “me” is an object pronoun?

Because it receives the action from the subject.

Like the pronoun “me”, the words above: “*you*”, “*him*”, “*her*”, and *others*, receive actions from the subject in the sentences above.

So practice the above examples of English pronouns for your daily conversation. To practice vocabulary for giving directions or making plan, visit the article: ["Expressing Life in English"](#).

## 5.2. Indirect

Take a look at these examples:

- Can you show **me** what you are reading?
- Can I give **you** his email address?
- We explained **him** everything about the issue.
- I'll buy **her** a new laptop if she succeed in the exam.
- The cat was very hungry. So, I gave a piece of bread to **it**.
- At last! They told **us** the secret about how to better use the device.
- Before taking the children to the zoo, he told **them** amazing stories.

Although earlier we said these words were direct pronouns, here we can't say so. Why?

Because in these last examples the pronouns don't receive actions from the subject. Understanding this insights is crucial to learn English pronouns to achieve fluency.

Need a proof?

Let's apply the test we used earlier, to check if the pronoun "**me**", in the sentence:

*"Can you show **me** what you are reading", receives any action.*

*Let's do it:*

- *Show what? - Answer: **what you are reading** – "what you are reading" receives the action.*
- *Show to who? – Answer: to **me** – "**me**" doesn't receive the action.*

How to decide whether a pronoun is direct or indirect?

Here is how:

Ask this question:

Does the pronoun receive an action from the subject?

- *If the answer is YES, it's a direct pronoun.*
- *If the answer is NO, it's an indirect pronoun.*

## 6. Types of English pronouns: Interrogative - *What, Where, How* and more

Interrogative pronouns allow the speaker ask question for a specific purpose in an effective way. Achieving fluency in English means using the right pronoun for the right question.

Have a look examples of English pronouns in daily conversation and see what the speaker seeks to know by using the pronouns in these questions:

- *"**What** is this?" – The speaker seeks to know the name, the definition, or what something is about.*
- *"**Whose** pen is this?" – The speaker wants to find out the owner of the pen.*
- *"**Where** are they going?" – The speaker intend to know the place they are going.*
- *"**Who** told you I was here?" – The speaker seeks to know the person who said they were there.*
- *"**To whom** was sent the email?" The speaker wants to know the person who the email had been addressed to.*
- *"**How** to create an email account?" – The speaker intend to know about the procedure of how to create an email.*
- *"**When** did you start running your business?" – The speaker seeks to know about the time they started running the business.*
- *"**Which** of these countries would you go if you could?" – The speaker seeks to know about someone's choice about something.*

- “**Why** is it so difficult to monetize content on the internet?” – The speaker wonders *to know the reason why it’s difficult to monetize content on the internet.*

### What do we learn from the samples above?

Our choice for using each of these words depends on the purpose of the question we aim to ask:

- You want to know *the reason* why something happens...? – use *why*.
- You want to know *the time* something will take place?– use *when*. Etc.

The description above shows how crucial it is to master these words. So, practice them if you want to achieve fluency in English language.

You can practice this with [English travel vocabulary](#)

## 7. Types of English pronouns: Demonstrative Pronouns -*This / That; These / Those*

Demonstrative pronouns are the easiest words to use, among the pronouns in English. The examples that follow show how to use them and what meaning they carry in a sentence:

“**This & that**” – What they tell:

- *Someone or something, is near or far from the speaker*

*E.g.*

- **This** is my uncle Mike. –*Near the speaker*
- **That** one over there, is his wife, Jane. – *Far from the speaker.*

“**These**” & “**Those**” – Which ideas do they express?

They mean this:

- *Two or more people/two or more things are near or far from the speaker:*

*E.g.*

- **These** are my uncles, Mike and John. –*Near the speaker*
- **Those** ones over there, are their wives Jane and Julia. – *Far from the speaker.*

This is how we use these words.

## 8. Types of English Pronouns: Indefinite Pronouns - *Somebody, Anything and More*

The table below shows: pronouns used for people, things, places and for all the 3 categories. You can practice the examples with [basic English vocabulary](#) in daily conversation

## People

Pronouns used for people

	<b>Positive sentence</b>	<b>Negative sentence</b>	<b>Question sentence</b>
	<i>Somebody is coming.</i>	<i>Nobody is coming.</i>	Is <i>somebody</i> coming?
	<i>Someone was here.</i>	<i>No one was here.</i>	Was <i>someone</i> here?
<b>Somebody Someone Nobody No one Anybody</b>	<i>Anybody</i> can do it.	<i>Nobody</i> can do it.	Can <i>anybody</i> do it?
<b>Anyone Everybody Everyone</b>	Anyone can answer it.	No one can answer it.	Can any one answer it?
	<i>Everybody</i> is invited.	<i>Nobody</i> is invited.	Is <i>everybody</i> invited?
	<i>Everyone</i> is working.	<i>No one</i> is working.	Is <i>everyone</i> working?

## Things

Pronouns Used for Things:

	<b>Positive sentence</b>	<b>Negative sentence</b>	<b>Question sentence</b>
<b>Something Anything</b>	<i>Something</i> has to be done	<i>Nothing</i> has to be done.	Has <i>something</i> to be done?
<b>Nothing</b>	You can do anything.	You can't do anything.	Can you do anything?
	<i>Everything</i> is fine.	<i>Nothing is fine.</i>	Is <i>everything</i> fine?

## Places

Pronouns Used for Places:

	<b>Positive sentence</b>	<b>Negative sentence</b>	<b>Question sentence</b>
<b>Somewhere Anywhere Nowhere</b>	It is <i>somewhere</i> .	It is <i>nowhere</i> .	Is it <i>somewhere</i> ?

I'll go Anywhere I won't go *anywhere*. Will I go *anywhere*?

It is everywhere It is *nowhere*. Is it *everywhere*?

## Examples of English pronouns in daily conversation used for People, Things and Places

Pronouns Used for People, Things and Places:

<b>Other</b>	People	Some students didn't come. <i>Others</i> are there.
	Things	Where are the chairs? -Some are here, <i>others</i> are over there.
	Places	The classrooms are clean, but <i>others</i> aren't.
<b>Both</b>	People	<b>Both</b> Joao and Maria went to school.
	Things	I need <b>both</b> of the books.
	Places	The hospital and the school, <b>both</b> are public institutions.
<b>Few</b>	People	<b>Few</b> people live in this house.
	Things	I need <b>few</b> desks in this room
	Places	This town has got <b>few</b> places to visit.
<b>Many</b>	People	<b>Many</b> people are dying in Africa because of malaria.
	Things	<b>Many</b> books worldwide are written in English.
	Places	<b>Many</b> shopping centers don't open on Sundays.
<b>Each</b>	People	<b>Each</b> student in the class had a laptop.
	Things	<b>Each</b> table should have a champagne.

	Places	<b>Each</b> nation has got its own flag.
<b>Another</b>	People	Will you need this? – I've got one. Give it to <b>another</b> person.
	Things	This car is white, <b>another one</b> is black.
	Places	Would you like to taste this? – No I prefer <b>another</b> fruit.
<b>Else</b>	People	Does someone <b>else</b> need to say something?
	Things	Will you add anything <b>else</b> ?
	Places	Any place <b>else</b> would you like to visit?

To achieve fluency in English language, you have to understand how indefinite pronouns work.

From the table above, we can see that indefinite pronouns have specific use:

- Some are used for people;
- Others are used for things;
- Others, for places;
- Others yet can be used for People, things and places;

## 9. Types of English pronouns: Reciprocal Pronouns - *Each Other* vs. *One Another*

Is there any difference in terms of the use?

YES.

They are used in different way.

Here is how:

**Each other** (*used for 2 people or 2 things*).

E.g.

- Pedro and Paulo are close friends. Whenever they meet they hug *each other*.

The phrase *each other* in this sentence, tells us 2 things:

- Just 2 subjects (Pedro and Paulo) are involved in the action;
- Subject 1 does something to subject 2, subject 2 does the same thing to subject 1 simultaneously.

**One another** (*used for more than 2 people or things*).

E.g.

- Pedro, Paulo and Luis are football players. They enjoy playing football. Look at them, over there, they are kicking the ball to *one another*.

Like “each other”, the phrase *one another* carries 2 meanings:

- First: The action includes 2 or more subjects;
- Second: The subjects do the same thing to one another at the same time;

This is how we use the pronouns *each other* & *one another*. Understanding this can greatly help you use correctly English pronouns to achieve fluency.

Knowing the types of English pronouns is essential for everyday conversations. This is because we use these vocabulary every time we speak and they make our speech sound natural. So practice using them if you want to build confidence.

Remember also to [practice vocabulary](#) together with the pronouns and check [common English mistakes and how to fix them](#).

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