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## Pronoun Rules in English grammar

### What is pronoun?

Pronoun is a word used in place of a noun in order to avoid repetition of the latter.

A pronoun is a word used in place of noun and in a sentence pronoun is used to avoid the repetition of a noun

### Kinds of pronoun

- **Personal pronoun:** Pronoun that stands for the three persons *I, We, You, They, He, She, It* etc.
- **Possessive pronoun:** Pronoun that show possession (*Mine, ours, yours, his, here, theirs*).
- **Demonstrative pronoun:** Words used for noun to point out the objects. (*This, that, these, those*, etc.)
- **Relative pronoun:** Words used for nouns to express functions relating to '*who, which, that, whose, whom*' etc.
- **Distributive pronoun:** Words used for individuals or objects referring to them as one at time. *Each, either, neither, every*, none etc.
- **Indefinite pronoun:** Words used for noun in vague and general meaning *Everybody, nobody, somebody, each, other, several, another, either neither*, all etc.
- **Reflexive pronoun:** Words used as a form of Personal pronoun for example *myself, ourselves, himself themselves, yourself* etc.
- **Reciprocal pronoun:** Those Words that are used to point out mutual relationship. *Each other, one another* etc.

### Rules of Pronoun

#### Rule 1

When the subject of the verb is the receiver of the action, the action is said to be reflected. Such verbs are used reflexively.

*Acquit, avail, adopt, apply, adjust, absent, amuse, avenge, exert, enjoy, reconcile, resign, revenge, overreach, pride*, etc, are used reflexively.

#### For example:

- He *resigned* himself to his failure. (Correct)
- The former D.M. *acquitted himself* very efficiently. (Place '*himself*' after '*acquitted*')
- They *enjoyed* themselves during summer vacation. (Correct)

#### Rule 2

Some verbs are not used reflexively. *Keep, stop, turn, move, hide, qualify, rest, bathe*, etc. Are not used reflexively.

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## For example:-

- You should keep **yourself** from bad boys. (Drop 'yourself')
- He has qualified **himself** for the post. (Drop 'himself')
- He **hide himself** in the bathroom. (Drop 'himself') ([Intransitive verb](#))
- The thief **hides** money under the carpet. ([Correct](#)) ([Transitive Verb](#))

## Rule 3

If a **reflexive pronoun** preceded by [Noun](#) or [Pronoun](#) concerned, it cannot act as a **subject** or **object** of a [verb](#) in [the sentence](#).

## For example:-

- **Myself** will see to it that you get your share of the property. (Change '*myself*' into '*I*')
- **Yourself** and he reached there in time. (Change '*yourself*' into '*you*' )
- I **myself** like him. ([Correct](#))
- Raj will do it for **myself** and my sister. (Change '*myself*' into '*me*' )

## Rule 4

If complement is a pronoun then, the verb '*to be*' should be followed by **subjective form**

## For example:-

- It is **me** who have brought you home. (Change '*me*' into '*I*')
- Was it **her** who did it for you. (Change '*her*' into '*she*')
- It will be **us** who will buy a new house. (Change '*us*' into '*we*')
- Is it **him** who hates you. (Change '*him*' into '*he*')

## Rule 5

If in a sentence **Verbs** and **Prepositions** are followed by the **objective case of pronoun**.

## For example:-

- Between you and **I** John is intelligent. (Change '*I*' into '*me*')
- She is teaching Ram and **She**. (Change '*she*' into '*her*')

## Rule 6

Good manners require that the order of *singular pronouns* should be **second-person, third-person, and first-person** (231)

But in plural '*we*' is used before '*you*' and '*they*' after '*you*' (123). The letter order will be observed while referring to unpleasant acts.

## For example:-

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- I and you will attend her wedding tomorrow. (Correct use is 'you' and 'I')
- He and you will share the mangoes. (Use 'you' and 'he')
- You, Mohan and I will watch movie tonight. (Correct)
- You, we and they are leaving for Mumbai tomorrow. (Use 'we', 'you' and 'they')
- You and I will be punished. (Unpleasant act, use 'I' and 'you')

## Rule 7

Use of possessive adjectives (Possessive cases of the pronoun)

- **When two subjects are joined by**

*As well as, together with, along with, and not, in addition to, like, unlike, with, rather than, except, no less than, nothing but, more than one* (**noun**) the possessive case of the pronoun (**possessive adjective**) is used in accordance with the first subject.

- **When two subjects are joined by**

*'Either or, neither nor, not only, also none but.'*

The possessive case of pronoun (**possessive adjective**) is used according to the nearest subject.

- **When the pronouns**

*Each, every, neither, either, anyone, many a, more than one*, (**possessive adjective**) are used as the subject, the possessive case should be third person singular.

They may refer to two or more than two objects or persons.

- When 'one' is used as a subject, the possessive case of the possessive case of the pronoun should be according to one. (i.e. *one's*)
- When a pronoun is used for more than one noun or pronoun of different persons of different persons, the possessive case is in the form of **first-person plural (our)** and second person plural (**your**).

**For example:-**

- Each boy and each teacher is requires to bring ~~their~~ luggage. (Use 'his' in place of their)
- One should do ~~his~~ duty sincerely. (Use 'One's' in place of his)
- Neither the students nor the teacher was playing in ~~their~~ proper uniform. (Use 'his' in place of their)
- Reena as well as her children has returned to ~~their~~ home. (Use 'her' for their)
- Only you and I have brought ~~your~~ books. (Use 'our' for your)
- You and he completed ~~their~~ work. (Use 'your' in place of 'their')
- Have you, he and I received ~~their~~ letters? (Use 'your' in place of 'their')
- Neither of two brothers has brought ~~their~~ bedding. (Use 'his' for 'their')
- Each one of us is doing ~~our~~ duty properly. (Use 'his' in place of 'our')
- Everyone should do ~~one's~~ duty. (Use 'his' in place of 'one's')

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- My sister along with her friends is doing her job at Delhi. (Correct)

## Rule 8

A noun or pronoun in the possessive case should not be used sometimes with the nouns such as – ‘*Separation, leave, excuse, mention, report, pardon, sight, favour.*’

### For example:-

- Your separation is very painful to me. (Say ‘separation from you’)
- At his sight the robbers fled. (Say ‘At the sight of him’)
- I beg your favour, please. (favour of / from you)
- She did make mention of you. (Correct ‘your mention’ is wrong)

## Rule 9

‘*Either, neither, each other*’ are used in speaking of two persons or things.

‘*Anyone, none, one other*’ are use while referring to more than two persons or things.

### For example:-

- Indians should never fight with **each other**. (Use ‘one another’ in place of ‘each other’)
- **Anyone** of his eyes is defective. (‘Either’ in place of ‘anyone’)
- **None** of his arms was wounded in the accident. (Use ‘neither’ for ‘none’)
- **Either** of his four sons has sold his property after his death. (Use ‘anyone’ for ‘either’)

## Rule 10

**While** writing questions tag the **subject** and verb must be according to the main sentence.

### For example:-

- Our teacher is intelligent, **isn’t it?** (Use ‘isn’t he?’)
- The boys are not going on a picnic, are they? (Correct)
- They went to Delhi yesterday, **isn’t it?** (Use ‘didn’t they’)
- She comes here daily, **does she?** (Use ‘doesn’t she?’)
- She will help me, won’t she? (Correct)
- I am late, aren’t I? (Aren’t is not correct)
- I am not late, am I? (Correct)
- He is seldom late, is he? (Correct)
- We need not worry, need we? (Correct)
- I used to write poetry, didn’t I? (Correct)
- We have a book, don’t we? (Correct)
- You have taken food, haven’t you? (Correct)
- **Imperative Sentence**
- Don’t close the room, will you? (Correct)
- Close the room, won’t you/will you? (Correct)
- Let them stay here, will they? (Correct)

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- Let us play, shall we? (Correct)

## Indefinite pronouns

- Everything is settled, isn't it? (Correct)
- Nothing is settled, is it? (Correct)
- None of your friends live here, do they? (Correct)
- Few students are working hard, are they? (Correct)
- Everybody can speak English, can't they? (Correct)
- No one can speak English, can they? (Correct)
- One of/all of/most of you will go there, won't you? (Correct)
- One of/most of/all of them will go there, shan't we? (Correct)
- One of/most of/all of them will go there, won't they? (Correct)

## Note:

The negative statements having words such as '*hardly, seldom, barely, scarcely*' are followed by ordinary question tag. (Affirmative)

With '*everybody, everyone, somebody, someone, nobody, no one, anybody, none, neither, either*'. 'They' is used in question tag.

## Rule 11

'Both' should be followed by '*and*' and not by '*as well as*'.

Negative is avoided with Both.

## For example:-

- Both you *as well as* my brother are going to attend her marriage tomorrow. (Use '*and*' in place of '*as well as*')
- Both of them are not going there. (Incorrect)
- Neither of them is going there. (Correct)

## Rule 12

'Which' is used in place of 'Who' when we are referring to a choice between two or more than two things or persons.

## For example:-

- Of the two sisters who is the more intelligent. (Use '*which*' in place of '*who*')
- Who is your father in the crowd? (Use '*which*' in place of '*who*')
- Who is better of the two dancers in our society? (Place '*the*' before better and change '*who*' into '*which*')

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## Rule 13

Possessive case - We don't use *noun* after possessive case of a pronoun.

**For example:-**

- This book is mine - This is **my** book.
- This shirt is yours - This is **your** shirt.
- **Our** is a populous country. (Say 'Ours')

## Rule 14

The relative pronoun should be expressed according to its relation with the verb of the adjective clause. 'Who' is used as a subject of a verb of adjective clause and 'whose', is used as an object of a verb of adjective clause.

**For example:-**

- He was talking of the women who, he said, he met in American. (Use 'whom' in place of 'who')
- She is the kind of lady whom, everybody knows, is intelligent. (Use 'who' in place of 'whom')

## Rule 15

The use of 'But' as a relative pronoun.

**For example:-**

- There was none but wept. (Who did not weep)
- There is no country but is corrupt. (Which is not corrupt)

## Rule 16

The use of the 'same' as a pronoun is wrong.

**For example:-**

- I shall give you a book and the same is very useful. (Say 'it' for the 'same')
- He bought a house and is living in the same. (Say 'it' for the 'same')

## Rule 17

'What' is used without an antecedent and it refers to things only.

**For example:-**

- It is incredible what she said.
- I don't believe in the words what she uttered. (Use 'which'/'that' in place of 'what')

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- I don't believe in what you say. (Correct)
- I know which you say. (Say 'what')

