

Pronouns and possessives

We all helped one another

Pronouns (1)

- We use subject pronouns (*I, you, he, she, it, we, they*) for the subject of a sentence, and object pronouns (*me, you, him, her, it, us, them*) for all other functions. When there is no verb, we use object pronouns.

~~She~~'s taller than ~~me~~. OR ...than ~~I~~ am.

A: Who said that ? B: ~~Me~~. OR ~~I~~ did

- When we use *and* to join pronouns with other words, we usually put ~~*I/me*~~ last.

My sister ~~and I~~ decided to go

TIP

- We sometimes use ~~*you both*~~, ~~*you all*~~, ~~*you two*~~, etc, to make it clear we are talking about more than one person.

Can ~~you two~~ please be a bit quieter?

Pronouns (2)

- In direct and indirect questions, we use the pronouns ~~who~~, ~~whose~~, ~~what~~ and ~~which~~ for both the subject and other functions.

We didn't know what to do

Which looks better?

Whose are these clothes? OR Whose clothes are these?

- In very formal situations, we use ~~whom~~ as the object form of who. If there is a preposition, we put it before

~~whom~~

To ~~whom~~ were you talking? OR ~~Who~~ were you talking to?

Pronouns (3)

- The most useful pronouns for talking about people in general are ~~you~~, ~~we~~ and ~~they~~.

~~You~~ could buy a whole farm...

~~We~~ need to do more to protect ~~our~~ planet.

- In more formal situations, we can use ~~one~~ to talk about people in general.

Does ~~one~~ need a visa to go to Cyprus ?

~~One~~ does one's best.

Pronouns (4)

- We use ~~it~~ to replace a noun with ~~the~~, and ~~one~~ to replace a noun with ~~a/an~~.

~~The work~~ was hard but ~~it~~ was well-paid.

You could buy ~~a farm~~..., and we decided to buy ~~one~~.

- We can use ~~one~~ or ~~ones~~ as a pronoun with a determiner or adjective.

I've got two brothers, an older ~~one~~ and a younger ~~one~~.

I guess we were among the lucky ~~ones~~. (= lucky people)

Pronouns (5)

- We can use most determiners (~~e.g. this, some, both, either, neither~~) and numbers as pronouns.

You'll love ~~this~~ joke □ You'll love ~~this~~.

A: Do you want salad or soup ?

*B: Could I have ~~both~~, please?/ **Either**. I don't mind.*

Pronouns (6)

- We use possessive determiners (~~my, your, his, her, its, one's, our, their~~) before nouns.
We use possessive pronouns (~~mine, yours, his, hers, ours, theirs~~) instead of nouns.

It was hard to leave ~~our~~ friends.

~~Ours~~ (= our farm) was small for America.

Pronouns (7)

- We use reflexive pronouns (~~myself, yourself, himself, herself, itself, oneself, ourselves, yourselves, themselves~~) when the subject and object refer to the same person. We use reciprocal pronouns (~~each other and one another~~) when they refer to different people.

We found ~~ourselves~~ in a desperate situation.

We all helped ~~one another/each other~~.

- We can use reflexive pronouns as indirect objects to emphasise ‘for the same person’.

We got ~~ourselves~~ a house.

- We use reflexive pronouns after a noun or pronoun to emphasise a particular person or thing.

I ~~myself~~ had been out of work for years.

We had lunch with the President ~~himself~~.

TIP

- We can use *myself* at the beginning of a sentence to emphasise that we are giving our personal opinion.

~~Myself~~, I'd prefer to stay at home.

Pronouns(8)

- We form indefinite pronouns with ~~some / any / every / no + body / one / thing / where~~. Indefinite pronouns are singular.

~~Everyone~~ was talking about the opportunities...

NOT Every one were talking...

- We can use adjectives or prepositions after indefinite pronouns.

We had enough money to think about moving somewhere else.

~~Anyone~~ with a problem knew a friendly Irish neighbour...

Pronouns(9)

- Use the pronouns ~~whatever~~ and ~~whoever~~ to mean 'it doesn't matter what/who' or 'I don't know what/who'.

They would give them ~~whatever~~ help they needed.

~~Whoever~~ told you that wasn't being completely honest.

Possessives(10)

- To make a possessive from a noun, we add 's. We add an ~~apostrophe (')~~ to regular plurals, and we add 's to irregular plurals.

What's the baby's name?

What are the babies' names?

What are the children's names ?

- To make a possessive from a long noun phrase, we add 's at the end.

We stayed ~~in my cousin and his wife's~~ house.

We don't use apostrophes in possessive pronouns. *Is this car ~~hers~~ ? NOT Is this car hers?*

Possessive

- We add ‘s to make the possessive forms of indefinite and reciprocal pronouns.

Please don't use ~~anyone else's~~ computer.

... staying in ~~each other's~~ houses.

NOT ...each other's houses.

TIP

- We don't use an apostrophe in possessive *its*. *It's* (with an apostrophe) means it is or it has.

What a beautiful baby! What's ~~its~~ name?