**Module :** Grammar **Mohamed Kheider University**

**Lesson:** Parts of speech **Level :** 1st year LMD

1. **Pronouns**

A pronoun is a word that is used in place of a noun or a noun phrase (called its antecedent) to avoid repeating it. It is also used to make our writing clearer, smoother, and less awkward.

In the sentence, “**Roberto feels that he can win the race**,” *he* is the pronoun, and *Roberto* is the antecedent.

There are eight types of pronouns.

* **Personal Pronouns**

They refer to specific persons or things (that have been already mentioned) and change their form to indicate person, number, gender, and case. They can be **subjective personal pronouns ( I, you, she, he, it, we, you, they)** used to act as *subjects of a verb*. **e.g**: **I** do the washing; **he** does the cooking; and **they** watch TV.

→ We usually use « it » for an animal. We can use *he* and *she* when we think of the animal as having human qualities or a special personality ; for example, when it’s a pet or a character of a story.

**e.g** : Pooh is a friendly bear. **He** enjoys eating and playing with*his*friends.

Personal pronouns can work also as direct or indirect *objects* (**objective personal pronouns**) of a verb or after a preposition. They are  **me, you, her, him, it, us, you, them.**

**e.g.** I saw **her** yesterday. (direct object)

You told **us** news. (indirect object)

She travelled only *with* **him**. (object of preposition)

* **Possessive Pronouns**

They are forms of personal pronouns that show ownership or relation. They are: **mine, yours, hers, his, its, ours, theirs.** We use them in place of possessive noun phrases

**e.g.** I couldn’t work in Mary’s room**. Hers** is even smaller than ***yours*** or ***mine***.

* **Reflexive Pronouns**

They are used to refer back to the subject of the sentence and stand as objects (of a verb or a preposition). They indicate that someone or something acts upon itself. They are formed by combining personal pronouns with « self » or « selves »: **myself, yourself, himself, herself, itself, ourselves, yourselves, themselves.**

**e.g.** She stretched **herself** out in the sofa.

I wrote it *to* **myself**.

→ Reflexive pronouns are also used after nouns or pronouns to emphasize them. They are called **intensive pronouns**.

**e.g**. The teacher **himself** gave me his address.

We met the Queen **herself**.

* **Demonstrative Pronouns**

***demonstrate*** (verb): to show; to indicate; to point to

Demonstrative pronouns point to and identify a noun or a pronoun. They are : **this, these, that, those.** → near in distance or time (**this**, **these**) → far in distance or time (**that**, **those**)

**e.g. This** is my seat ; **that** is yours. (subjects)

→We can use *this/these* to introduce people and that/those to identify people.

**This** is Ann Thomas and **these** are her two sons, Nick and Jason. (introducing them)

**That’**s Mrs. Parker and **those** are her two grandchildren**.** (identifying them in the distance)

**BECAREFUL** Do not confuse demonstrative pronouns with demonstrative adjectives. They are identical, but a demonstrative pronoun stands alone, while a demonstrative adjective qualifies a noun.

**That** smells bad. (demonstrative pronoun)

**That dog** smells bad. (demonstrative adjective + noun)

* **Interrogative Pronouns**

They are used to ask questions. They are : **who, whom, which, what, whose.**

**→** *who*, *whom*, and occasionally *which* are used to refer to people.

→ *which* and *what* are used to refer to things and animals.

**e.g. Who** told you? **John** told me. (subject)

**Whom** did you tell? I told **Mary**. (object)

**What**'s happened? **An accident**'s happened. (subject)

**What** do you want? I want **coffee**. (object)

**Which** came first? **The Porsche 911** came first. (subject)

**Which** will the doctor see first? The doctor will see **the patient in blue** first. (object)

There is one car missing. **Whose** hasn't arrived? **John's (car)** hasn't arrived. (subject)

We've found everyone's keys. **Whose** did you find? I found **John's (keys).** (object)

**Note**: We sometimes use the suffix "-ever" to make compounds from some of these pronouns (mainly **whoever**, **whatever**, **whichever**). When we add "-ever", we use it for emphasis, often to show confusion or surprise. Look at these examples:

**Whoever** would want to do such a nasty thing?

**Whatever** did he say to make her cry like that?

They are all fantastic! **Whichever** will you choose?

* **Relative Pronouns**

A relative pronoun introduces a relative clause. It is called a "relative" pronoun because it "relates" to the word that its relative clause modifies.They are  **who, whom, that, whose, which, where, why, when, what, whoever, whomever, whichever.**

**e.g.** George, ***who*** *is my best friend*, is a teacher.

**relative clause**

→ We use « who », « whomever », « which », « that » to refer to the subject of a clause or sentence. **e.g.** The candidate **who** wins the greatest popular vote is not always elected. (in this sentence, the relative pronoun “who” is the subject of the verb « wins » and introduces the adjective clause « who wins the greatest popular vote ». This clause acts as an adjective modifying « candidate »).

→ We use « whom », « which », « that » to refer to the object of a sentence.

**e.g :** The girl ***whom*** *you saw* is my sister.

The cake ***which*** *you gave me* is very sweet.

→ We use « whose » for possession. **e.g.** My brother, ***whose*** *phone you just heard*, is a doctor.

→ Relative clauses can be restrictive (defining) or non-restrictive (non-defining)

e.g. Mrs. Pratt, **whom I like very much**, is our neighbour. (Non-restricive)

The person **whom I phoned last night** is my teacher. (Restrictive)

The blue car**,** **which is a taxi,** exploded. (Non-restrictive)

The car **which I drive** is old. (Restrictive)

* **Indefinite Pronouns**

They refer to identifiable but not specified persons or things.They do not indicate exactly who or what they are. We use them to talk about people and things in a very general way, usually because we can’t or we don’t want to identify them more specifically. The most common indefinite pronouns are : ***all, another, any, anybody, anyone, anything, anywhere, each, everybody, everyone, everything, everywhere, few, many, much, little, no one, none, nobody, nothing, nowhere, one, ones, several, some, someone, somebody, something, somewhere, either, neither, both, other, others, another.***

**e.g : - Many** were invited to the lunch but only twelve showed up.

S

- We donated **everything** we found in the attic to the women’s shelter. (*affirmative sent*)

D.O

- There isn’t **anything** to eat. (*negative sent*)

- Make sure you give **everyone** a copy of the program.

I.O

- Give a registration package to **each**.

**Object of preposition**

→ We use a singular verb with somebody, everybody,....(**Everybody** *is* happy) and we use he/she, him/her, .... to refer back to these pronouns

**e.g**. **Somebody** left *his* or *her* book.

**BUT →** In everyday informal English, a plural personal pronoun is often used to refer to an indefinite pronoun**.**

**e.g. Someone** *has* left *their* coat in my car.

**Everybody** *is* enjoying *themselves.*

→ Indefinite pronouns can work also as adjectives if they are followed by a noun.

**e.g.** **Each** knows what to do. (pronoun)

**Each** *man* knows what to do. (adjective)

* **Reciprocal Pronouns**

They are used for an action or feeling that is reciprocated. The two most common reciprocal pronouns are "**each other**" and "**one another**". (both have the same meaning)  
**e.g :**  - You can shout at **each other/one another** as much as you like outside.

→ We can use reciprocal pronouns after prepositions and as possessives.

**e.g** : The two girls never argued *with* **one another**.

They even wore **each other’s/one another’s** clothes sometimes.

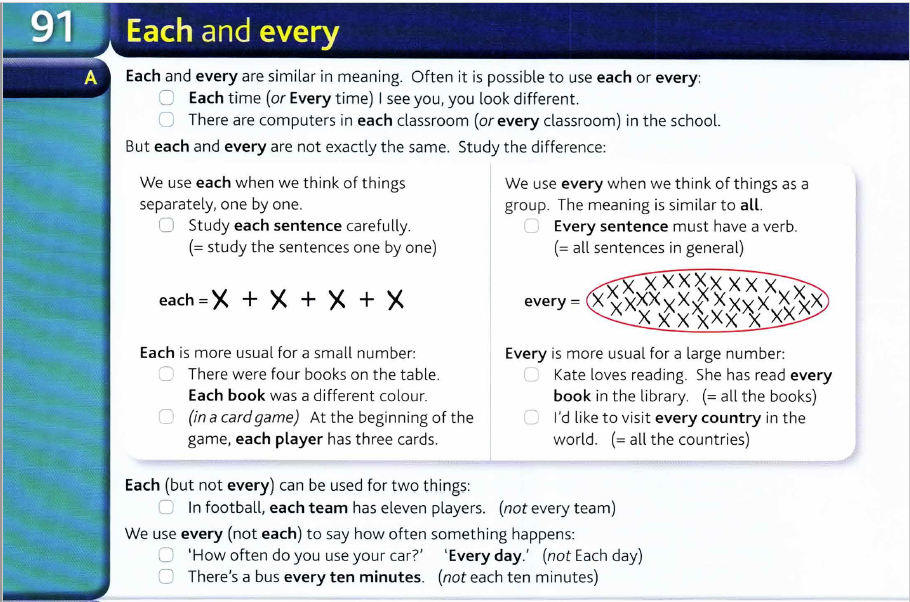
🡺 You can use **one another** instead of **each other**

* How long have you and Ben known **each other?** *or* ... known **one another?**
* Sue and Alice don't like **each other.** *or* ... don't like **one another.**

→We can use **each** as *subject* and **the other(s)** as *object* when the action of the verb goes both ways. **e.g.** I asked the boys if they had broken the window and **each** blamed **the other**.

**🡺** Compare: **-*selves*** and ***each other*:**

* Kate and Joe stood in front of the mirror and looked at **themselves.** (= *Kate and Joe* looked at *Kate and Joe)*
* Kate looked at Joe; Joe looked at Kate. They looked at **each other.**



**Practice :**

1. **Insert the pronoun between brackets making any necessary changes.**

* Our teacher praised (I)........yesterday.
* The only guests not to come yet are John and (she)........
* The letter was addressed to (he)........
* The car one belonged to Paul’s mother, but now it’s (he).......
* Their teacher is taking (they)........to the museum.
* He didn’t bring his book, so I lent him (I) .........
* Lest’s contact (we) ........ once we’ve made some progress.
* She made (she) ....... a sandwich and a cup of coffee.
* We are going out. You can come with ......
* I cannot use my pen. Can I use ..... ?

1. **Circle the correct answer.**

* Did **somebody/anybody** notice that Luke wasn’t at the meal ?
* **No one/anyone** asked about him.
* Nobody from our group **was/were** there.
* There **was/were** somebody from Tom’s drama group.
* I haven’t seen **nobody/anybody** today.
* Everyone **is/are** at home with **his/ their** family.
* I am very tired, so I don’t to go **somewhere/anywhere**.