

PRONOUNS

Lesson - 2

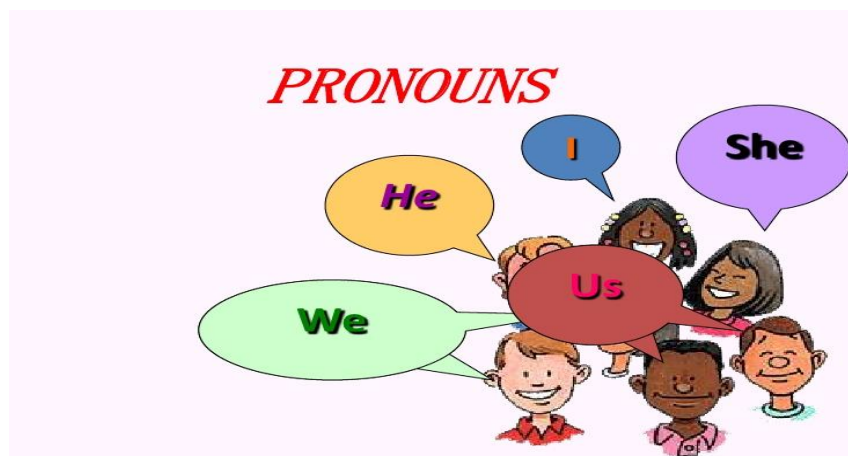
❖ Pronoun: Word used for or instead of a noun is known as a pronoun.

E.g.: Padma is my girl friend. She is very beautiful.

I visited Delhi. This is the capital of India.

Prasad is my friend. He is very kind.

❖ The words, 'she', 'this', 'he' are pronouns because they stand for persons or things. 'she' stands for Padma, 'this' stands for Delhi and 'he' stands for Prasad.



- I. Personal pronoun.
- II. Demonstrative pronoun.
- III. Interrogative pronoun.
- IV. Indefinite pronoun.
- V. Relative pronoun.
- VI. Reflexive pronoun.
- VII. Intensive pronoun.

1. PERSONAL PRONOUNS

A personal pronoun refers to a specific person or thing and changes its form to indicate person, number, gender and case.

Types of personal pronouns

❖ Subjective Personal Pronouns:-

A **Subjective personal pronoun** indicates that the pronoun is acting as the subject of the sentence. The subjective personal pronouns are “I,” “You,” “she,” “he,” “it,” “we,” “you,” “they”. In the following sentences, each of the **highlighted** words is a subjective personal pronoun and acts as the subject of the sentence.

Examples:

- I was glad to find the bus pass in the bottom of the green knapsack.
- You are surely the strongest child I have ever met.
- When she was a young woman, she earned her living as a coal miner.
- After many years, they returned to their homeland.
- We will meet at the library at 3:30 P.M.
- It is on the counter.
- Are you the delegates from Malaysia?



❖ Objective Personal Pronouns

- An objective personal pronoun indicates that the pronoun is acting as an **object of a verb, compound verb, preposition, or infinitive phrase**. The objective personal pronouns are: “me,” “You,” “her,” “him,” “it,” “us,” “you,” and “them.” In the following sentences, each of the **highlighted** words is an objective personal pronoun:

- **E.g:-**

Seamus stole the Selkie's skin and forced her to live with him. The objective personal pronoun "her" is the direct object of the verb "forced" and the objective personal pronoun "him" is the object of the preposition "with".

- After reading the pamphlet, Judy threw it into the garbage can. The pronoun "it" is the direct object of the verb "threw".
- The agitated assistant stood up and faced the angry delegates and said, "Our leader will address you in five minutes". In this sentence, the pronoun "you" is the direct object of the verb "address."
- Dev and Raveena will meet us at the newest cafe in the market. Here the objective personal pronoun "us" is the direct object of the compound verb "will meet".
- Give the list to me. Here the objective personal pronoun "me" is the object of the preposition "to".
- I'm not sure that my contact will talk to you. Similarly in this example, the **objective personal pronoun "you" is the object of the preposition "to"**.
- Ram was surprised to see her at the races. Here the objective personal pronoun "her" **is the object of the infinitive phrase "to see."**

❖ Possessive Personal Pronouns

A **possessive pronoun** indicates that the pronoun is acting as a marker of possession and defines who owns a particular object or person. The **possessive personal pronouns** are "mine," "yours," "hers," "his," "its," "ours," and "theirs." **Note that possessive personal pronouns are very similar to possessive adjectives like "my," "her," and "their."**

In each of the following sentence, the highlighted word is a possessive personal pronoun:

- The smallest gift is **mine**. Here the possessive pronoun "mine" functions as a **subject complement**.
- **His** is on the kitchen counter. In this example, the possessive pronoun "his" acts as the **subject of the sentence**.
- **Theirs** will be delivered tomorrow . In this sentence, the possessive pronoun "theirs" is the **subject of the sentence**.
- **Ours** is the green one on the corner. Here too the possessive pronoun "ours" functions as the **subject of the sentence**.

Forms of Personal Pronouns

❖ First Person (Masculine or Feminine)

Case	Singular	Plural
Nominative	I	We
Accusative or Objective	Me	Us
Possessive	My, Mine	Our, Ours

❖ Second Person (Masculine or Feminine)

Case	Singular/ Plural
Nominative	You
Accusative or Objective	You
Possessive	Your, Yours

❖ Third Person

Case	Masculine Singular	Feminine Singular	Natural Plural	All Gender Plural
Nominative	He	She	It	They
Accusative or Objective	Him	Her	It	Them
Possessive	His	Her, Hers	Its	Their, Theirs


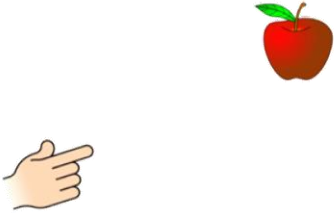
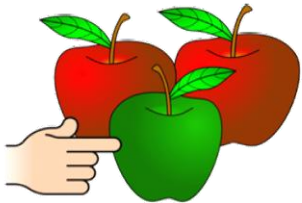
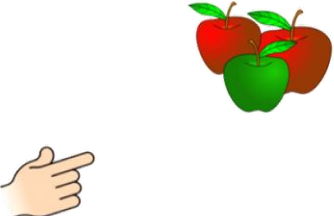
2. DEMONSTRATIVE PRONOUNS

A **demonstrative pronoun** points to and identifies a noun or a pronoun. “This” and “these” refer to things that are **nearby** either in **space or in time**, while “that” and “those” refer to things that are farther away in space or time. The demonstrative pronouns are “this,” “that,” “these,” and “those.” “This” and “that” are used to refer to singular nouns or noun phrases and “these” and “those” are used to refer to plural nouns and noun phrases.

Note:- that the demonstrative pronouns are identical to demonstrative adjectives, though, obviously, you use them differently. It is also important to note “that” can also be used as a **relative pronoun**.

In the following sentences, each of the highlighted words is a demonstrative pronoun:

- **That** is incredible! (referring to something you just saw)
- I will never forget **this**. (referring to a recent experience)
- **Such** is my belief. (referring to an explanation just made)
- You're going to wear these **clothes**? (referring to a sense of emotional distance or even disdain)

Singular	 <u>This</u> is an apple.	 <u>That</u> is an apple.
Plural	 <u>These</u> are apples.	 <u>Those</u> are apples.

3. INDEFINITE PRONOUNS

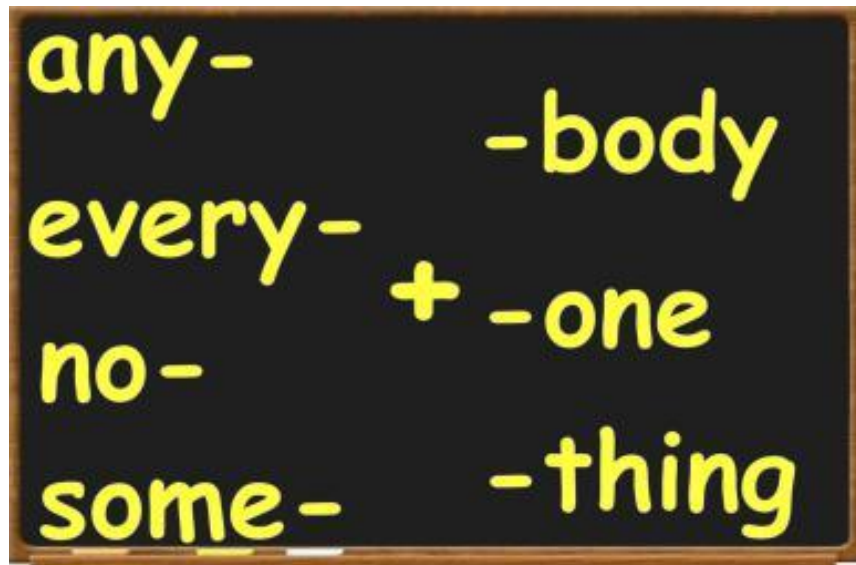
An **indefinite pronoun** is a pronoun referring to an **identifiable but not specified person or thing**. An indefinite pronoun conveys the idea of all, any none, or some.

The most common indefinite pronouns are “all,” “another,” “any,” “anybody,” “anyone,” “anything,” “each,” “everybody,” “everyone,” “everything,” “few,” “many,” “nobody,” “none,” “one,” “several,” “some,” “somebody,” and “someone.” Note that some **indefinite pronouns can also be used as indefinite adjectives**.

The **highlighted** words in the following sentences are indefinite pronouns:

- **Many** were invited to the lunch but only twelve showed up. Here “many” acts as the subject of the compound verb “were invited”.
- The office had been searched and **everything** was thrown onto the floor. In this example, “everything” acts as a subject of the compound verb “was thrown.”
- We donated **everything** we found in the attic to the woman’s shelter garage sale. In this sentence “everything” is the direct object of the verb “donated.”

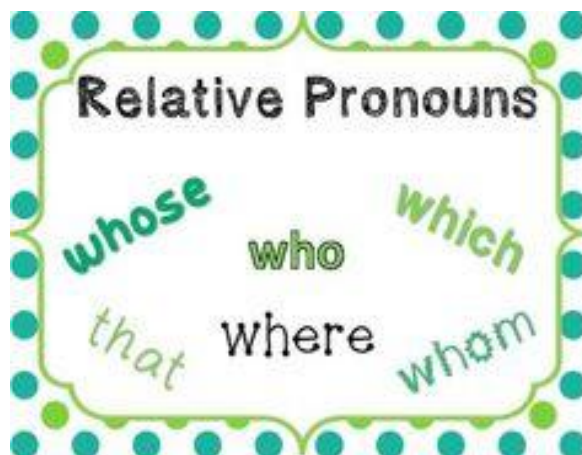
- Although they looked everywhere for extra copies of the magazine, they found **none**. Here too the indefinite pronoun functions as a direct object: “none” is the direct object of “found.”
- Make sure you give **everyone** a copy of the amended bylaws. In this example, “everyone” is the indirect object of the verb “give”- the direct object is the noun phrase “a copy of the amended bylaws.”
- Give a registration package to **each**. Here “each” is the object of the preposition “to”.



4. RELATIVE PRONOUNS

A **relative pronoun** is used to **link one phrase or clause** to another phrase or clause. The relative pronouns are “who,” “whom,” “that,” and “which.” The **expanded form** of the relative pronoun – **whoever, whomever, whatever** – are known as **indefinite relative pronouns**.

You can use the relative pronouns “who” and “whoever” to refer to the subject of a clause or sentence, and “whom” and “whomever” to refer to the objects of a verb or a preposition.



In each of the following sentences, the **highlighted** word is a relative pronoun.

- You may invite **whomever** you like to the party. The relative pronoun “whomever” is the **direct object** of the compound verb “may invite”.
- The candidate **who** wins the greatest popular vote is not always elected. In this sentence, the relative pronoun is the subject of the verb “wins” and introduces the subordinate clause “who wins the greatest popular vote”. This **subordinate clause** acts as an adjective modifying “candidate.”
- **Whoever** broke the window will have to replace it. Here “whoever” functions as the subject of the verb “broke”.
- The crate **which** was left in the corridor has now been moved into the storage closet. In this example “which” acts as the subject of the compound verb “was left” and introduces the subordinate clause “which was left in the corridor.” The subordinate clause acts as an adjective modifying the noun “crate.”
- I will read **whichever** manuscript arrives first. Here “whichever” modifies the noun “manuscript” and introduces the subordinate clause “whichever manuscript arrives first.” The subordinate clause functions as the direct object of the compound verb “will read.”

5. REFLEXIVE PRONOUNS

One can use a **reflexive pronoun** to refer back to the subject of the clause or sentence.

The reflexive pronouns are “myself,” “yourself,” “herself,” “himself,” “itself,” “ourselves,” “yourselves,” and “themselves”. “Note each of these can also act as an **intensive pronoun**”.

Each of the **highlighted** words in the following sentences is a reflexive pronoun:

- Diabetics give **themselves** insulin shots several times a day.
- The Dean often does the photocopying **herself** so that the secretaries can do more important work.
- After the party, I asked **myself** why I had faxed invitations to everyone in my office building.
- Richard usually remembered to send a copy of his e-mail to **himself**.
- Although the landlord promised to paint the apartment, we ended up doing it **ourselves**.

Note: Be alert to a tendency to use reflexive and intensive forms (ending in *-self*) where they are neither appropriate nor necessary:

- Bob and (myself) I are responsible for this decision.
- These decisions will be made by (myself) me.

6. INTENSIVE PRONOUNS

An **intensive pronoun** used to emphasize its *antecedent*. Intensive pronoun are identical in form to reflexive pronouns. The **highlighted** words in the following sentences are intensive pronouns:

- I **myself** believe that aliens should abduct my sister.
- The Prime Minister **himself** said that he would lower taxes.
- They **themselves** promised to come to the party even though they had a final exam at the same time.

7. INTERROGATIVE PRONOUNS

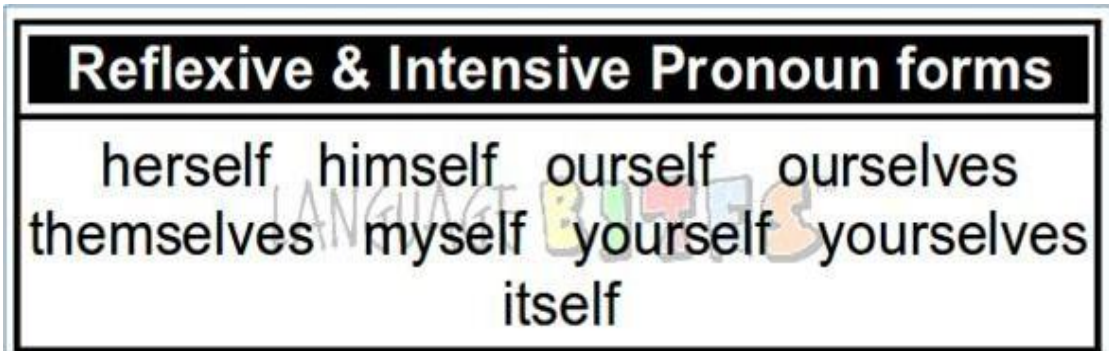
An **interrogative pronoun** is used to ask questions. The interrogative pronoun are “who,” “whom,” “which,” “what” and the compounds formed with the suffix “ever” (“whoever,” “whomever,” “whichever,” and “whatever”). Note that either “which” or “what” can also be used as an interrogative adjective, and that “who,” “whom,” or “which” can also be used as a relative pronoun.

You will find “who,” “whom,” and occasionally “which” used to refer to people, and “which” and “what” used to refer to things and to animals.

“Who” acts as the subject of a verb, while “whom” acts as the **object of a verb, preposition, or a verbal phrase**.

The **highlighted** word in each of the following sentences is an interrogative pronoun:

- **Which** wants to see the dentist first? “which” is the subject of the sentence.
- **Who** wrote the novel Rockbound? Similarly “who” is the subject of the sentence.
- **Whom** do you think we should invite? In this sentence, “whom” is the object of the verb “invite.”
- **Who** will meet the delegates at the train station? In this sentence, the interrogative pronoun “who” is the subject of the compound verb “will meet”.
- To **whom** did you give the paper? In the example the interrogative pronoun “whom” is the object of the preposition “to.”
- **What** did she say? Here the interrogative pronoun “what” is the direct object of the verb “say.”



8. RECIPROCAL PRONOUNS

- ❖ The **reciprocal pronouns** are **each other** and **one another**. They are convenient forms for **combining ideas**. If Bob gave Alicia a book for Christmas and Alicia gave Bob a book for Christmas, we can say that they gave each other books (or that they gave books to each other.)
 - My mother and I give each other a hard time.
 - They borrowed each other's ideas.
 - The scientists in this lab often use one another's equipment.

RULES FOR THE FOLLOWING

1. Number, person and gender
2. Nominative pronoun
3. Complement of the verb 'to be'
4. Objective form
5. Pronoun of different persons
6. Pronoun for a collective noun
7. Pronoun for more than two nouns
8. Pronoun for each or every + noun
9. Each, either, neither
10. Either and neither
11. Anyone and none
12. Each other/one another
13. Both and all
14. Pronoun for 'or', either Or'/' neither ...nor nouns

15. Pronoun for or/nor + singular and plural nouns
16. Pronouns for different persons
17. Pronoun after than/as
18. Pronoun 'it'
19. Pronoun 'this' or 'it'
20. Who
21. Whom
22. Which
23. Whose
24. That
25. What
26. 'But' as a relative pronoun
27. Compound relative pronouns
28. Agreement of the relative pronoun with its antecedent

The relative pronoun is omitted in the following cases

Such/as

Which in restricted sense

The same That/as

Who in the objective form

Independent possessives

One, one's, oneself

Reflexive pronoun

Interrogative pronoun

I. **Number, person and gender**

The first and basic rule of the use of pronouns is that it must have the same number, person and gender as the number, person and gender of the noun for which it has been used.

e.g. = She has completed her note.

II. Nominative pronoun

Nominative pronouns are used as the subject of a verb.

(He, She, I, You, We, They are in the nominative form)

e.g. = They are talking

III. Complement of the verb 'to be'

If a verb 'to be' has a pronoun for its complement, the pronoun must be used in the nominative form.

e.g. = It is **he** (not him) who will give you the notes.

Note: It should be remembered that in exclamatory and predicative sentences personal pronouns can be used in the objective form.

e.g. = It is me!

IV. Objective form

If a personal pronoun is the object of a verb or a preposition it must be used in the objective form. (**Me, Us, Him, Them, Her, You** are in the objective form).

e.g. = She depends upon **me** (not I)

V. Pronouns of different persons

❖ If pronouns of different persons are to be used with the same verb, they must be used in the following order.

A. *Singular number* – **You** (second person) should come first. **He** (third person) come next, and **I** (first person) should come last. This order is indicative of refined culture and good behaviour.

e.g. = You and he and I are classmates.

B. *In plural number*

You + They + We

e.g. We and they were in the same college.

C. But if the sentence has a bad sense, or is expressive of some error or fault, the order should be thus

I/We + You + He/ They.

e.g. = I and You and he have to accept our fault.

VI. **Pronoun for a collective noun**

- ❖ With a collective noun in the pronoun used is singular or plural according to its sense. In the singular number we use 'it/its' and in plural they/ them.

e.g. **The jury has given its verdict. (Singular)**

The Jury are divided in their opinion.(plural)

VII. **Pronoun for more than two nouns**

- ❖ When two or more nouns are joined by **and**, the pronoun used for them is always plural.

e.g. Shyam and his friends have completed **their** work.

VIII. **Pronoun for each or every + noun**

- ❖ When two or more nouns are joined by and, and before each noun there comes each or every, the pronoun used is always singular.

e.g. Each clerk and each typist has left **his** seat.

IX. **Each, either, neither**

- ❖ They always take singular verb and singular possessive.

e.g. **Each** of them is sure to get **his** rank.

Either of them is sure to get **his** chance.

Neither of the students has corrected **his** homework.

X. **Either and neither**

- ❖ Either and neither are used for two things only, not for more than two.

e.g. You can choose **either** of these **two** shirts.

Neither of the two sisters were selected.

XI. **Anyone – none**

- ❖ When more than two things are referred to, we use anyone in place of either and none in place of neither.

e.g. **Anyone** of these **three girls** can dance with me.

None of these ten **students** passed.

XII. **Each other/one another**

- ❖ They are called **reciprocal pronouns**. Each other is used for **two thing or persons**, and one another for **more than two**.

e.g. The **two brothers** help **each other**.

All the **five brothers** help **one another**.

The **two wheels** rub against **each other**.

Note: In the modern usage it is believed there is little difference between each other and one another. Now, sometimes, each other is used for more than two, and one another for only two.

e.g. These **three sisters** really love **each other**.

Let us **all** help **each other**.

XIII. **Both and all**

❖ Both is used for two, and all for more than two.

e.g. **Both** the apples are good. (only two apples)

All the pencils are red. (more than two)

XIV. **Pronoun for 'or', 'either.....or'/'neither.....nor' - noun**

❖ When two or more than two nouns are joined with or, either.....or, neither.....nor, the pronoun used for them is always singular.

e.g. Arun **or** Sunil has lost **his** purse.

Either the doctor or his assistant will be in **his** clinic.

Neither Ravi **nor** Ram has done **his** work.

XV. **Pronoun for or/nor + singular and plural nouns**

❖ When a singular noun and a plural noun are joined by or/nor, the pronoun used for them is always plural.

e.g. **Either** Principal **or** the teachers had neglected **their** duty.

Neither the sons **nor** their father had kept **their** promise.

XVI. **Pronoun after than/as**

❖ A peculiar difficulty arises in the correct use of pronoun after **than** or **as** the problem is to decide whether the pronoun to be used after **than** or **as** should be in the **nominative form or objective/accusative form**. In this connection it should be remembered that the pronoun used after **than** or **as** is the short form of a whole clause. Thus, the full form of 'I am taller than he' will be 'I am taller than he is'. Therefore, in order to decide whether the nominative or **the objective form of the pronoun should come after than or as**, and as soon as we do so, the correct form of the pronoun will come in our mind.

e.g. I am as strong **as he** (is).

He loves you more **than I** (love you)

Note: In sentences containing the verbs of **incomplete predication** (suggesting the idea of being, becoming or seeming), pronouns of objective form can also be used in place of nominative form after than or as.

e.g. He is younger than me.

XVII. Pronoun 'it'

- ❖ The Pronoun 'it' is used in the following cases.
 - a) For inanimate things
e.g. This is your car. **It** is a small car.
 - b) For small animals, birds and insects
e.g. There is a cat. **It** is white.
 - c) For very little children
e.g. The child has wetted **its** napkin.
 - d) For such statements as have already been referred to earlier
e.g. He answered the question; as he knew **it**.

XVIII. Pronoun 'this' or 'it'

- ❖ A difficulty often arises with regard to the use of **this** or **it** in a sentence. It has been made amply clear above that 'it' is only an **imaginary nominative** while '**this**' is real nominative, or gives some definite reference or information about the real nominative. **This** is used to give the **name introduction** or any **other information** about someone. **It** is used only for **weather, season, time** or some **impersonal subject**. **This** refers to a person, thing, any specific information or quality, or nearness/closeness.
e.g. **This** is a cow.

XIX. Who

- ❖ **Who** is used in the **nominative case** only for persons, both **in the singular and plural numbers**. **Who** is not used for inanimate things. For **animals** also **who** is not **generally used**. **Who is also for people and those**.
e.g. He is the thief **who** was caught red-handed.

XX. Whom

- ❖ **Whom** is used only for persons in the **objective/accusative case both in singular and plural numbers**.
e.g. The girl **whom** I gave the notes has secured first division.

XXI. Which

- ❖ **Which** is used for animals and **inanimate things**.
e.g. The house **which** has a high gate is mine.
Note: In prepositional cases the **preposition is always used before which**.
e.g. The post **for which** I applied is permanent.

XXII. Whose

- ❖ **Whose** is used in possessive case both for pronouns and animals.
e.g. The girl **whose** hair is long is my sister.

XXIII. That

A. That is used both for **animate and inanimate** things both in singular and plural numbers.

That has no **possessive/genitive case** and therefore no preposition can be used before it. If it is very necessary to use a preposition, it can be placed at the end of the sentence. In such a case the sentence can be completed without **that** also.

e.g. I have lost the **ring that** you gave me.

B. In the following cases the use of 'that' is preferred to 'that' of 'who' or 'which' as-

I. After the **superlative degree**

e.g. **Gandhi was the greatest man that modern India produced.**

II. After these words – all, same, any, none, nothing, only, anything, anybody, nobody, little, somebody, no one.

e.g. **She is the same girl that danced yesterday.**

III. After **interrogative pronoun** 'who/what'

e.g. **what is it that troubles you so much?**

IV. **After two antecedents**, one of which stands for a person and the other for an animal or a thing.

e.g. **The driver and his bus that crossed the lane struck against a tree.**

XXIV. What

- ❖ Relative pronoun **what** is used for things only. It is used without an antecedent, and it means **that which**.
e.g. **What** I told you is true.

XXV. 'But' as a relative pronoun

- ❖ Sometimes **but** is used as a relative pronoun, in which case it means who not/which not.
e.g. There is a problem **but** can be solved.

XXVI. Compound relative pronouns

- ❖ These are – **whoever, whoso, whoso-ever, whomsoever, whichever, whatever, whatsoever.**

All these compound pronouns are used without antecedents, because antecedents are contained within them. They are supposed to be complete in themselves.

e.g. You can write **whatever** you like.

XXVII. Agreement of the relative pronoun with its antecedent

- ❖ A relative pronoun agrees with its antecedent in **number and person**. Therefore, it is supposed to have the same number and person as its antecedent. The verb is also used according to the same number and person.
e.g. **Students who are** intelligent are loved by teachers.

XXVIII. The relative pronoun is omitted in the following cases

- ❖ The relative pronoun '**that**' can be **omitted in the objective case**. The **sentence is correct in both cases, with or without 'that'**.
e.g. The picture **that** I saw yesterday was good. or
The picture I saw yesterday was good.

XXIX. Such/as

- ❖ 'As' is always used after such, the same or as
e.g. My car is the **same as** yours, My dress is as gorgeous as yours, I like citrus fruits such as oranges.

XXX. Which in restricted sense

- ❖ In the **restricted sense/ choice** 'which' can be used both for persons and things.
e.g. **Which** of them is your book.
Which of you would like to go for the movie?

XXXI. The same.....that/as

- ❖ If in a certain sentence 'the same' comes before a noun, the same noun suggested by 'as' or 'that' in the following clause. But if in the following clause, the verb is understood (i.e. not expressed), only as will be used not **that**.
e.g. He is the **same** man **as/that** came this morning.

XXXII. 'Who' in the objective form

- ❖ Strictly from the grammatical point of view **who** is used in the **nominative form**, and **whom** in the **objective form**. But nowadays, specially in conversational language, **who** is being used in the objective form in place of **whom**. Or, otherwise, who or whom are both omitted from their objective place.
e.g. **Who** did you talk to?
Note : In this sentence '**who**' has been used in place of **whom**. **In such sentence who or whom are both correct.**

XXXIII. Independent possessives

- ❖ **Mine, ours, yours, theirs, his** are called **independent possessives**.
No noun is used after them. The sense of noun comes from the context.
e.g. This pen is **mine/yours**.

XXXIV. One, one's, oneself

- ❖ **One** is an **indefinite** pronoun. It is used in its own form in all **the three cases**. In **nominative and objective cases it is** used as one, in possessive case it is one's and in reflexive form **it is one's**, and **in reflexive form it is oneself**. It is wrong to use personal pronoun with it.
e.g. One should mind **one's** (not his) own business.

XXXV. Reflexive pronoun

- ❖ **Reflexive pronoun are formed by the additional of self-or selves**. They are-himself, herself, yourself, yourselves, themselves, myself, ourselves, itself. They add emphasis to the statement.
They cannot be used independently. The related noun or pronoun must be used with them.
e.g. I can do it **myself**.
No machine can move by **itself**.

XXXVI. Interrogative pronoun

- ❖ **Interrogative pronouns are these – who, whom, whose, which, what. The following are the rule for their use.**
 - I. What is used for inanimate things.
e.g. **What** is that?
 - II. **What is used for persons also when the question is about their position or profession.**
e.g. **What** is she?
 - III. Who, whose, whom are used for persons. Who is used in the nominative case, whom in the objective case, and whose in possessive case.
e.g. Who is there?
Whose book is this?
 - IV. Which is used for persons and things in restricted choice.
e.g. Which is your pen?
 - V. Sometimes it becomes essential to use some preposition with which or what. In such a situation the preposition is placed at the end of the sentence, not at the beginning.
e.g. Which book are you searching for?