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SSC - 245

Other Pronouns

Overview: In addition to personal pronouns, there are many different types of pronouns that can be used to take the place of the main noun in a sentence or paragraph. This handout will help clarify when to use each type of pronoun to maintain clarity and specificity in your writing.

Indefinite pronouns refer to non-specific persons or things. Although most indefinite pronouns are noun equivalents, some also act as adjectives.

- *Everyone* writes at some point in their education.
- *Nothing* can stop her.

Common indefinite pronouns include:

all	another	any	anybody	anyone
anything	both	each	either	everybody
everyone	everything	few	many	neither
nobody	none	no one	nothing	one
several	some	somebody	someone	something

Possessive pronouns indicate ownership. These pronouns often function as adjectives. Note that possessive pronouns are exempt from the rule that requires the addition of an apostrophe and an “s” to show possession.

- *His* essay is more developed than *mine*.
- *Their* mouths fell open.

Above, the pronoun *his* shows who possesses the essay, and *mine* is a pronoun that replaces the speaker’s essay.

These are the possessive pronouns:

Singular: my, mine, your, yours, her, hers, his, its	Plural: our, ours, your, yours, their, theirs
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Demonstrative pronouns point to nouns. Even though demonstrative pronouns usually function as adjectives, they can also act as noun equivalents.

- I checked out several books from *that* library today.
- *These* are for my research paper.

Demonstrative pronouns include:

Singular: this, that	Plural: these, those
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Relative pronouns begin clauses that function as adjectives and point back to the noun that the clause modifies.

- The paper *that* I wrote was well organized.
- The dog *whose* owner walks it off-leash.

Relative pronouns include:

who	whom	whose	which	that
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Interrogative pronouns introduce questions, such as “*Which* assignment is due today?” Interrogative pronouns include:

- *Who* will be at the party?
- *What* are you going to do tomorrow?

who	whom	whose	which	what
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Reflexive Pronouns refer back to the subject of the sentence.

- She must remind *herself* to tape her favorite show or else she will miss it.
- The little boy spun *himself* in circles.

Reflexive pronouns include:

myself	yourself	herself	himself
itself	ourselves	yourselves	themselves

Intensive Pronouns include the same pronouns as reflexive pronouns, but they give special emphasis to a noun.

- The president *herself* visited the children in the hospital.
- While I understand your point of view, I *myself* disagree.

In this example, the usage of the intensive pronoun *herself* helps to illustrate that the president’s visit to the hospital was particularly meaningful because of her position.

Reciprocal pronouns refer to how the individual parts of a plural antecedent interact

- The students help *each other* proofread their papers.

Here, *each other* is the reciprocal pronoun, while “the students” is the plural antecedent.

The two Reciprocal Pronouns are *each other* and *one another*.

Practice: These pronouns should be used to help give more information about a noun; therefore, you must use them carefully so as to avoid confusion within your writing. Now, take a moment to look at your own writing. Do your pronoun choices align with the intent of your paper? Does each function to give more information about a noun?