Pronouns Point

Pronouns point to nouns with alternate names.

Pro
means
"for."
Pronoun
means
"for a noun."

he   **she**   it

liberty

Pronoun or Adjective?
When pronouns directly modify nouns, they become adjectives.

Pronoun
What is the time?

Adjective
What time is it?
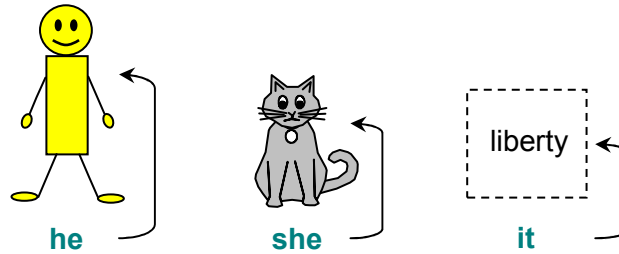
Personal Pronouns
point to "people" nouns (except for *it* and *its*).

- **I, me, my, mine**
- **you, your/s**
- **he, him, his**
- **she, her/s**
- **we, us, our/s**
- **they, them, their/s**
- **who, whom, whose**
- **it, its**

Subjective Case
She has a toy.
They have a car.

Objective Case
The toy was *hers*.
The car was *theirs*.

Possessive Case*
Sue gave *her* toy away.
The Smiths drove *their* car.
*These pronouns become Possessive Adjectives.

Demonstrative Pronouns
point to specific nouns.

Singular
This, That

Plural
These, Those

This is the boy.
Those are the girls.

Interrogative Pronouns
point to nouns that are the answers to questions.

What, Which
Who, Whom, Whose

What is the time?
Who is there?
Tom saw *whom*?

Indefinite Pronouns
point to non-specific nouns.

Singular
Another, Each, One
Either, Neither
- **Anyone / body / thing**
- **Everyone / body / thing**
- **Someone / body / thing**
- **No one / body / thing**

Plural
All, Both, Few
Many, Several

Singular or Plural
Any, None, Some

Neither is poor.
Both are thin.
Sugar? *Some* is okay.
Fats? *Some* are okay.

Reflexive Pronouns
"reflect" the nouns they point to.

Singular
myself
himself
herself
yourself
itself

Plural
ourselves
yourselves
themselves

He saw himself.
They saw themselves.

Imagine a noun looking at its pronoun "reflection" in a mirror.

Relative Pronouns
link dependent clauses to nouns.

"Relatives" bring family members together!

Who, Whom, Whoever, Whomever
Which, That, Whatever, Whichever

Subjective Case
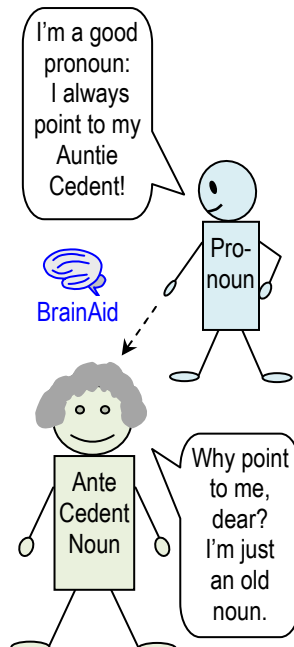*A boy who tells lies is dishonest.*

Who is the subject of the dependent clause "who tells lies," which it links to the noun "boy."

Objective Case
Every boy whom Tom named was guilty.

Whom is the object of the dependent clause "whom Tom named," which it links to the noun "boy." (To put it another way: Tom named *whom*.)

Observe how *who* & *whom* can be Personal, Interrogative, or Relative pronouns.

I'm a good pronoun: I always point to my Auntie Cedent!

BrainAid

Pro-noun

Ante Cedent Noun

Why point to me, dear? I'm just an old noun.

Antecedent
o u
Antecedents are the **nouns** that pronouns point to.

Ante means "before" and *cede* means "to go." Think of an antecedent as an "ancestor" that exists or "goes before" its pronoun.

John wore his proudly.
His points to its antecedent noun *John*.

It was John's **ring**.
It points to its antecedent noun *ring*.

I found a **ring** outside. It was John's.
An antecedent can be in previous text.

It was John's.
If no antecedent appears in the current text, it is understood to exist from previous text.

Your Turn!

Match each pronoun to a category.

1) _____ *these* are   a. Personal

2) _____ *Which* is?   b. Demonstrative

3) _____ *each* of   c. Indefinite

4) _____ sees *itself*   d. Reflexive

5) _____ *its* body   e. Interrogative

6) _____ *few* attend

7) _____ to *anybody*

8) _____ *mine* are

9) _____ *that* is

True or False

10) _____ Pronouns point to antecedents.

11) _____ Relative pronouns introduce independent clauses.

12) _____ Demonstrative pronouns point to specific nouns.

13) _____ Indefinite pronouns include *each* and *one*.

14) _____ The pronoun *that* can be Demonstrative or Relative.

15) _____ Pronouns that modify nouns become adjectives.

Answers: 1b, 2e, 3c, 4d, 5a, 6c, 7c, 8a, 9b, 10T, 11F, 12T, 13T, 14T, 15T