

Exercise 4 Identifying Nouns

Identify the twenty-five nouns in the sentences below.

EXAMPLE 1. To enter the wildlife park, we walked through the mouth of a huge fake alligator.

1. *park, mouth, alligator*



1. Businesses sometimes use gigantic objects to advertise their products.
2. A stand that sells fruit might look like an enormous orange, complete with doors and windows.
3. A restaurant in Austin, Texas, has a delivery van shaped like a dinosaur.
4. Huge dogs, windmills, and figures of Paul Bunyan are formed with cement or fiberglass to help sell chain saws, trucks, and souvenirs.
5. An old hotel in New Jersey was even built to look like an elephant!

The Pronoun

1b. A pronoun is a word that is used in place of one or more nouns or pronouns.

EXAMPLES Stan bought a suit and an overcoat. **He** will wear **them** tomorrow. [The pronoun *He* stands for the noun *Stan*. The pronoun *them* stands for the nouns *suit* and *overcoat*.]

Several of the horses have gone into the stable because **they** are hungry. [The pronoun *Several* refers to the noun *horses*. The pronoun *they* stands for the pronoun *Several*.]

The word that a pronoun stands for or refers to is called the *antecedent* of the pronoun. In the following examples, the arrows point from the pronouns to their antecedents.

EXAMPLES The tour guide showed the **students** where **they** could see Mayan pottery.

Why did **Oscar** give **his** camera to the film school?

Darius scored a **field goal**. **It** was his first of the season.

Notice that a pronoun may appear in the same sentence as its antecedent or in a nearby sentence.

Reference Note

For more information about **antecedents**, see page 181.

SKILLS FOCUS

Identify and use pronouns. (page 53): Identify and use personal pronouns.

Personal Pronouns

A **personal pronoun** refers to the one speaking (first person), the one spoken to (second person), or the one spoken about (third person).

First Person	I, me, my, mine, we, us, our, ours
Second Person	you, your, yours
Third Person	he, him, his, she, her, hers, it, its, they, them, their, theirs

EXAMPLES I hope that **they** can find **your** apartment by following **our** directions.

She said that **we** could call **them** at home.

He asked **us** to help **him** clear away the fallen branches from **his** backyard.

Their dog obeyed **them** immediately and went to **its** bed.

NOTE In this book, the words *my*, *your*, *his*, *her*, *its* and *their* are called pronouns. Some authorities prefer to call these words adjectives. Follow your teacher's instructions on labeling these words.

Exercise 5 Identifying Antecedents

Give the antecedent for each italicized pronoun in the following paragraph.

EXAMPLE In about A.D. 1150, a historian wrote down a strange tale English villagers had told [1] *him*.

1. *him*—*historian*

Since numerous people told the same story, the historian believed [1] *it*. Supposedly, a young boy and girl with bright green skin had been found wandering in the fields. [2] *They* spoke a foreign language and wore clothing made of an unknown material. At first, the two children would eat only green beans, but after [3] *they* learned to eat bread, [4] *their* skin gradually lost [5] *its* greenness. After learning English, the girl said [6] *she* and [7] *her* brother had come from a land called Saint Martin. The story sounds like science fiction, doesn't [8] *it*? Perhaps the villagers invented [9] *it* to amuse [10] *their* friends and fool historians.

Reference Note

For information on **choosing pronouns that agree with their antecedents**, see page 181. For information on **clear pronoun reference**, see page 239.

Think as a Reader/Writer

To keep your readers from getting confused, place pronouns near their antecedents—generally within the same sentence or in the next sentence.

CONFUSING

Please hand me the scissors. I also need some strapping tape. They are in the top drawer on the left. [Does *They* refer to the scissors or to both the scissors and the strapping tape?]

CLEAR

Please hand me the **scissors**. **They** are in the top drawer on the left. I also need some strapping tape. [Only the scissors are in the top drawer on the left.]

TIPS & TRICKS

To find out if a pronoun is reflexive or intensive, leave it out of the sentence. If the meaning of the sentence stays the same without the pronoun, the pronoun is intensive.

EXAMPLES

Ron looked at himself in the mirror. [*Ron looked at in the mirror doesn't mean the same thing. The pronoun is reflexive.*]

Jenny painted the room herself. [*Jenny painted the room means the same thing. The pronoun is intensive.*]

Reference Note

For more information on **relative pronouns**, see page 147. For information on **subordinate clauses**, see page 145.

SKILLS FOCUS

Identify and use reflexive pronouns. Identify and use intensive pronouns. Identify and use demonstrative pronouns. Identify and use interrogative pronouns. Identify and use relative pronouns. (page 55): Identify and use indefinite pronouns.

Reflexive and Intensive Pronouns

A *reflexive pronoun* refers to the subject of a sentence and functions as a complement or as an object of a preposition. An *intensive pronoun* emphasizes its antecedent and has no grammatical function.

First Person	myself, ourselves
Second Person	yourself, yourselves
Third Person	himself, herself, itself, themselves

EXAMPLES Elena treated **herself** to a snack. [*reflexive*]

Albert **himself** organized the fund-raiser. [*intensive*]

Demonstrative Pronouns

A *demonstrative pronoun* is used to point out a specific person, place, thing, or idea.

this that these those

EXAMPLES **That** is Soon-Hee's favorite restaurant in San Francisco.

The tacos I made taste better than **those**.

Interrogative Pronouns

An *interrogative pronoun* introduces a question.

who whom which what whose

EXAMPLES **Which** of the songs is your favorite?

What is your parakeet's name?

Relative Pronouns

A *relative pronoun* introduces a subordinate clause.

that which who whom whose

EXAMPLES The ship **that** you saw is sailing to Greece.

Isabel is my friend **who** is training for the Boston marathon.

Indefinite Pronouns

An *indefinite pronoun* refers to one or more persons, places, ideas, or things that may or may not be specifically named.

all	each	most	one
another	either	much	other
any	everyone	neither	several
anybody	everything	nobody	some
anyone	few	none	somebody
anything	many	no one	something
both	more	nothing	such

EXAMPLES Angelo has **everything** he will need to go rock climbing.
Is **anyone** at home?
Most of the birds had already flown south for the winter.

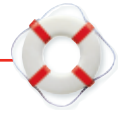
Exercise 6 Identifying Pronouns

Identify all the pronouns in the sentences below.

EXAMPLE [1] My friend Hideko invited me to a Japanese tea ceremony at her house.

1. *My, me, her*

[1] The tea ceremony at Hideko’s house was more like some I have seen in movies than the traditional one shown in this picture. [2] “What happens during the tea ceremony, Hideko?” I asked as we entered the house. [3] According to Hideko, the purpose of the tea ceremony, a custom that dates back hundreds of years, is to create a peaceful mood. [4] In the ceremony, everyone sits quietly and watches the tea being made. [5] Before entering the room for the ceremony, I reminded myself to take off my shoes. [6] During the ceremony, each of us knelt on a straw mat. [7] Hideko’s mother was our tea hostess, the person who conducts the ceremony and prepares all of the tea. [8] She prepared the tea and served it in bowls that had been in the family for generations. [9] Then she served us sweet cakes called *kashi* (KAH-shee). [10] Afterward, Hideko herself gave me a box of tea leaves to take home with me.



HELP

Many of the pronouns you have studied so far may also be used as adjectives.

EXAMPLES

this street
whose puppy
many acorns

Reference Note

For more about using **pronouns**, see Chapter 7.