

# Pronouns

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In [linguistics](#) and [grammar](#), a **pronoun** is a word that usually takes the place of a [noun](#) or [noun phrase](#) that was previously mentioned (such as "she", "it") or that refers to something or someone ("I", "me", "you").

Pronouns are often one of the basic [parts of speech](#) of the language. A pronoun is the part of speech that substitutes for nouns or noun phrases and designates persons or things asked for, previously specified, or understood from the context. The substituted noun is the **antecedent** of the pronoun.

For example, consider the sentence *John gave the coat to Alice*. All three nouns in the sentence can be replaced by pronouns to give: *He gave it to her*. If the coat, John and Alice have been previously mentioned, the listener can deduce what the pronouns *he*, *it* and *her* refer to and understand the meaning of the sentence.

Some activities to try:

Give examples of singular, plural, and possessive pronouns.

Make a chart and state the definition of a pronoun at the top. Divide the chart into three parts (singular, plural, and possessive).

Read: *I and You and Don't Forget Who: What is a Pronoun?* By Brian P. Cleary.

Ask students to identify the pronouns and write them in a correct area of the chart.

Show the student action pictures. Say and write two or three sentences about the picture without using pronouns. Underline the words that could be replaced with pronouns. For Example: The dog is eating a bone. The dog likes the bone. The bone is bigger than the dog is. Replace the underlined words with a pronoun.

When a student uses a pronoun incorrectly, repeat or paraphrase the student's utterance saying the correct pronoun louder and longer.

Display simple comic strips with the captions deleted. Use appropriate pronouns.

\*\*\*activities taken from RTI in Action by Roth, Dougherty, Paul, and Adamczyk.