

ProfilSup

L'ESSENTIEL DE LA GRAMMAIRE ANGLAISE


À L'ENTRÉE DANS L'ENSEIGNEMENT SUPÉRIEUR

- *Classes préparatoires*
- *Grandes écoles*
- *Universités*

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 Pronouns are words that are used instead of a noun or a noun phrase. We often use them to refer back to people and things that we have already identified.

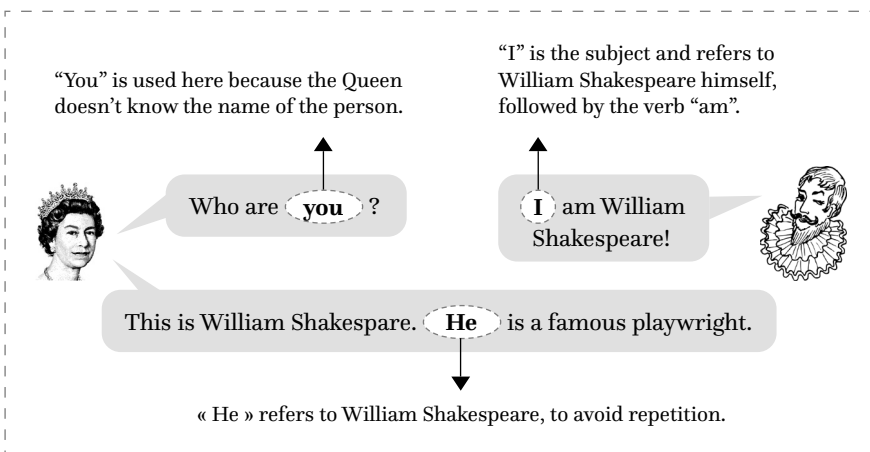
Subject pronouns

A subject pronoun takes the place of a noun, or a noun phrase, as the subject of a sentence. Remember, a sentence's subject is the person or thing that performs the action of a verb.



If you don't want to repeat a name, or if you don't know it, subject pronouns are the keys to success!

Construction site



1st person, singular



I am the Queen.

2^d person, singular



You are Elizabeth II.

3rd person, singular

She is a monarch.



He is a playwright.



It is a book.



1st person, plural



We are British.



2^d person, plural



Shakespeare?
Elizabeth II? WOW!!
You are celebrities!

3rd person, plural



Elizabeth II and Shakespeare are used as examples.
They are famous.

💡 If you don't want to indicate the gender of someone, you can use "they".

💡 There is no specific pronoun to address someone politely, as in French or German. Simply use « you »



▶ *"Have more than thou showest, speak less than thou knowest, lend less than thou owest."* King Lear, Act I, Scene IV

Shakespeare used "thou" in his plays, which was an old-fashioned, poetic, or religious word for "you" when you talked to only one person. It was used as the subject of a verb. It is no longer used nowadays.

Object pronouns

An object pronoun, also called objective pronoun, functions as the object of a verb or preposition, as distinguished from a subject or subjective pronoun, which is the subject of a verb.



Shakespeare was a great playwright.
I love **him** !

Elizabeth II?
Never heard of **her** !



1st person, singular

Shakespeare
doesn't
know **me**!

2^d person, singular

I don't know
You!

3rd person, singularI don't know **her**.I don't know **him**.I don't know **it**.1st person, plural

Many people
know **us**.

2^d person, plural

Your Majesty and
Shakespeare, I am
honoured to see **you**!

3rd person, plural

Elizabeth II and Shakespeare
are very famous.

Lots of people love **them**.



Exercises

■ **Exercise 1** Find the correct subject pronouns for the given nouns.

- sister → _____
- bike → _____
- boy → _____
- Jane and Mike → _____
- school → _____
- cars → _____
- Sophia and I → _____
- teacher → _____
- dad → _____
- parents → _____

■ **Exercise 2** Complete the sentences with the correct subject pronoun.

- _____ am the new English teacher.
- _____ is a very intelligent boy.
- John and Clive invited me for dinner. _____ are lovely!
- Do you know Jessica? _____ works at the train station.
- Have you seen this film? _____ is about the Civil War.
- As parents, _____ don't think it is reasonable for a child to go to bed too late.
- Andrew, Kate? Are _____ ready? It's time to go!

■ **Exercise 3** Choose the correct object form of the personal pronoun to substitute the underlined phrase in the sentence.

1. The boys are riding their bikes.
 it them her
2. I am reading the book to my little sister.
 her us him
3. The teacher always gives the students homework.
 me them you
4. My mother is writing a letter to John.
 me her him
5. Eddie is going to see Anne.
 her him me
6. I don't know the answer.
 she her it
7. Open the door, please.
 it them us
8. Can you help my sister and me, please?
 her me us
9. The books are for Peter.
 him her you
10. Can you tell the people the way to the airport, please?
 you them us

■ **Exercise 4** Replace the underlined elements with the correct subject or object pronouns.

1. Amelia doesn't know William. → _____ doesn't know _____.
2. How can I help Emily and Steve? → How can I help _____?
3. Christopher is 15 years old. → _____ is 15 years old.
4. The pizza is cold now, can you reheat the last slice?
→ _____ is cold now, can you reheat _____?
5. I am waiting for James. James is always late.
→ I am waiting for _____. _____ is always late.
6. My friends and I usually walk to school together.
→ _____ usually walk to school together.
7. I don't want to see Lucy, I want to see Tina and Paul.
→ I don't want to see _____, I want to see _____.
8. My grandmother always makes breakfast for my brother and me.
→ _____ always makes breakfast for _____.

Possessive determiners and pronouns

🔍 Possessives are forms that we use to talk about possessions and relationships between things and people. They take different forms depending on how they are used. Possessive determiners, also called possessive adjectives (*my/your* etc.), come before a noun, whereas possessive pronouns (*mine/yours* etc.) replace a noun.

Possessive determiners






Possessive determiners are a type of function words used in front of a noun to express possession, belonging (*my book, her dog...*) or relationships between people (*his wife, your sister...*). Unlike French, the choice of determiner does not depend on the gender of the noun being owned but on the gender of the owner.




Shakespeare was also a poet. **His** sonnets are marvellous!

Is she related to Elizabeth I? Is she **her** daughter?



1 st person, singular	2 ^d person, singular	3 rd person, singular
 <p>My family is called Windsor.</p>	 <p>Elizabeth, what is your family name?</p>	<p>Her name is Windsor. ♀ His name is Shakespeare. ♂ Its title is "Hamlet". 📖</p>
1 st person, plural	2 ^d person, plural	3 rd person, plural
 <p>Our names are famous around the globe.</p>	 <p>What are your family names again?</p>	 <p>Elizabeth II and Shakespeare are very famous. Lots of people know their names.</p>

 **How to pronounce these determiners:**

my /maɪ/ **your** /jɔː/ **her** /hɜː/ **his** /hɪz/ **its** /ɪts/ **our** /aʊə/ **you** /jɔː/ **their** /ðeə/

Listen to them.



Possessive pronouns

Like any pronoun, a possessive pronoun replaces a noun. For example, in the sentence “*This is my house and that is hers.*”, to avoid the repetition of the word “house” (*that is her house*) we use the possessive pronoun “hers”.

1st person, singular



Don't touch it! This is **mine**!

2^d person, singular



Whose glass is this? Is it **yours**?



3rd person, singular

It's her dress. It's **hers**.
It's his suit. It's **his**.
Normally, book pages are white, **its** are yellow.



1st person, plural



Some have local fame, **ours** is global!



2^d person, plural



My house is nice but **yours** is bigger!



3rd person, plural



Whose house is this?

It's **theirs**!



 **How to pronounce these pronouns:**

mine /maɪn/ **yours** /jɔːz/ **hers** /hɜːz/ **his** /hɪz/ **its** /ɪts/ **ours** /aʊəz/
yours /jɔːz/ **theirs** /ðeəz/

Listen to them.



Exercises

■ **Exercise 1** Complete with the correct possessive determiners.

1. We are going to have a party. We will invite all _____ friends.
2. I like badminton. It's _____ favourite sport.
3. They've bought a house. _____ house is the biggest in the street.

4. The dress is beautiful. _____ colour is red.
5. My sister has a flat. _____ flat is in the city centre.
6. Do you like _____ job?
7. William is meeting _____ friends tonight.
8. We learn Spanish at school. _____ teacher is strict.
9. These people are nice. _____ names are Richard and Sarah.
10. I have a cat. _____ is Stella.

■ **Exercise 2** Complete the sentences with the correct possessive pronouns.

1. – Is she your friend? – Yes, she's a friend of _____.
2. My car goes very fast, what about _____?
3. A neighbour of _____ finds us too noisy.
4. – Is it their house? – No, _____ is much bigger!
5. Stop being nosy! It's my business, not _____.
6. – Is it Kevin's dog? – Yes, it's _____!
7. Give me your keys, I can't find _____.
8. We're not lucky. Their brand-new car is gorgeous, _____ is so old and ugly!

■ **Exercise 3** Complete the sentences either with the possessive determiner or pronoun corresponding to the subject pronoun in parenthesis.

1. The bike on the right is _____. (you)
2. The children brushed _____ teeth. (they)
3. Phoebe's hair is longer than _____. (I)
4. This is my bag and that is _____. (he)
5. It's _____ turn now. (I)
6. The bus stop is near _____ house. (we)
7. Our school is much nicer than _____. (they)
8. Here are _____ tickets. (she)
9. How is _____ new school? (you)
10. Which desk is _____? (we)

🔗 Articles are words that come before a noun. They define a noun as specific or unspecific. There are two different types of articles: indefinite (*a/an*) and definite (*the*). Certain nouns require neither an indefinite nor definite article before them. It is called “zero article” and it is symbolised by : \emptyset .

Remember

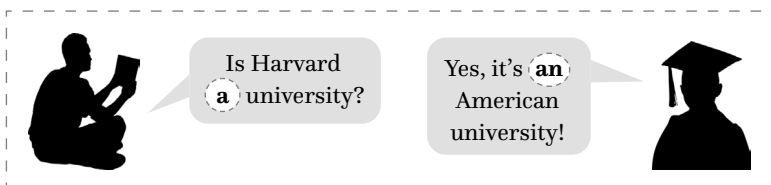
Nouns can be classified as :

COUNTABLE <i>We can count them</i>	UNCOUNTABLE <i>We cannot count them</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • have a plural form • can have “a”/“an” or a number before them 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • have no plural form • usually cannot have “a”/“an” or a number before them
<p><i>Example :</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ My sister has got <u>a</u> cat but I’ve got <u>two</u> dogs. 	<p><i>Example :</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ I like <u>milk</u> but I hate <u>cheese</u>.

Indefinite articles: *a* or *an*

An indefinite article is used when a speaker is talking about a non-specific and countable noun, i.e. that could be any member of a group. It cannot be used before a plural noun.

- “a” is used before a word starting with a consonant sound including /j/ as in university (/ˌjuːnɪˈvɜːsəti/).
- “an” is used before a word starting with a vowel sound.
 - ▶ *Example:*



🔊 Pronounce “a” /ə/ in normal, connected speech.

Pronounce “a” /eɪ/ when you say the word by itself or when you want to emphasise it.