

LESSON NOTE ON ENGLISH LANGUAGE WEEK 1

SUBJECT: English Language
TOPIC: Grammar: Part of speech; Pronouns
CLASS: JS1
WEEK: 1

DEFINITION OF PRONOUNS

Pronouns are words we use to replace nouns in sentences to avoid repetitions.

Without pronouns, we'd have to keep on repeating nouns, and that would make our speech and writing repetitive, not to mention cumbersome.

Examples include:

1. He
2. She
3. They
4. It
5. We
6. Who

However, they can also stand-in for certain adverbs, adjectives, and other pronouns. Anytime you want to talk about a person, animal, place or thing, you can use pronouns to make your speech or writing to flow better.

TYPES OF PRONOUNS

Pronouns can be divided into numerous categories including:

1. Personal pronouns: are pronouns we use in place of persons' names. They include: I, me, we, us, you, he, him, she, her, it, they, them.
2. Indefinite pronouns: are pronouns that do not refer to a specific person or thing. Some are singulars, others are plural. Singular indefinite pronouns are: anyone, anybody, each, either, neither, someone, something, another, one, little, less, much, somebody, etc.
3. Reflexive pronouns: are pronouns that refer to the same subject who performs the action. Reflexive pronouns are formed by adding–self or–selves to the personal pronouns. Examples myself, yourself, himself, herself, itself, themselves and ourselves.
4. Demonstrative pronouns: are use those used to point to something specific within a sentence. Examples: singular demonstrative this and that, plural demonstrative these and those. This and these are used to point out to persons or objects that are close by while that and those for persons or things that are far.

5. Possessive pronouns: are used to show those possession or ownership. Examples: mine, ours, yours, his, hers, its, their and whose.
6. Relative pronouns: are used to refer to nouns mentioned previously, acting to introduce an adjective (relative) clause i.e. whose, whom, which, who, which, that.
7. Interrogative pronouns: are used for asking questions. Examples: who, what, which.
8. Reciprocal pronouns: those expressing mutual actions or relationship examples: one another, each other. 'One another' is used for more than two persons while 'each other' is used for two persons.

PRONOUN RULES

There are a few important rules for using pronouns. As you read through these rules and the examples in the next section, notice how the pronoun rules are followed. Soon you'll see that pronouns are easy to work with.

1. Subject pronouns may be used to begin sentences. For example;
We did a great job.
2. Subject pronouns may also be used to rename the subject. For example;
It was she who decided we should go to Hawaii.
3. Indefinite pronouns don't have antecedents. They are capable of standing on their own. For example;
No one likes the sound of fingernails on a chalkboard.
4. Object pronouns are used as direct objects, indirect objects, and objects of prepositions. These include you, me, him, her, us, them, and it. For example;
David talked to her about the mistake.
5. Possessive pronouns show ownership. They do not need apostrophes. For example;
The cat washed its whiskers.

EVALUATION: The following exercises will help you gain a greater understanding of how pronouns work. Choose the best answer to complete each sentence.

1. I saw Dele and Ariyo _____ were playing on the field.
(a) whom (b) who (c) which (d) whose
2. The boy hid _____.
(a) themselves (b) herself (c) himself (d) theirself
3. I know this is my bag, but whose is _____?
(a) those (b) these (c) that (d) your
4. _____ do you prefer, beans or rice?
(a) whom (b) which (c) what (d) whose

5. Taye and Kehinde have not been talking to _____ since they quarrelled.

(a) themselves (b) oneself (c) each other (d) theirself